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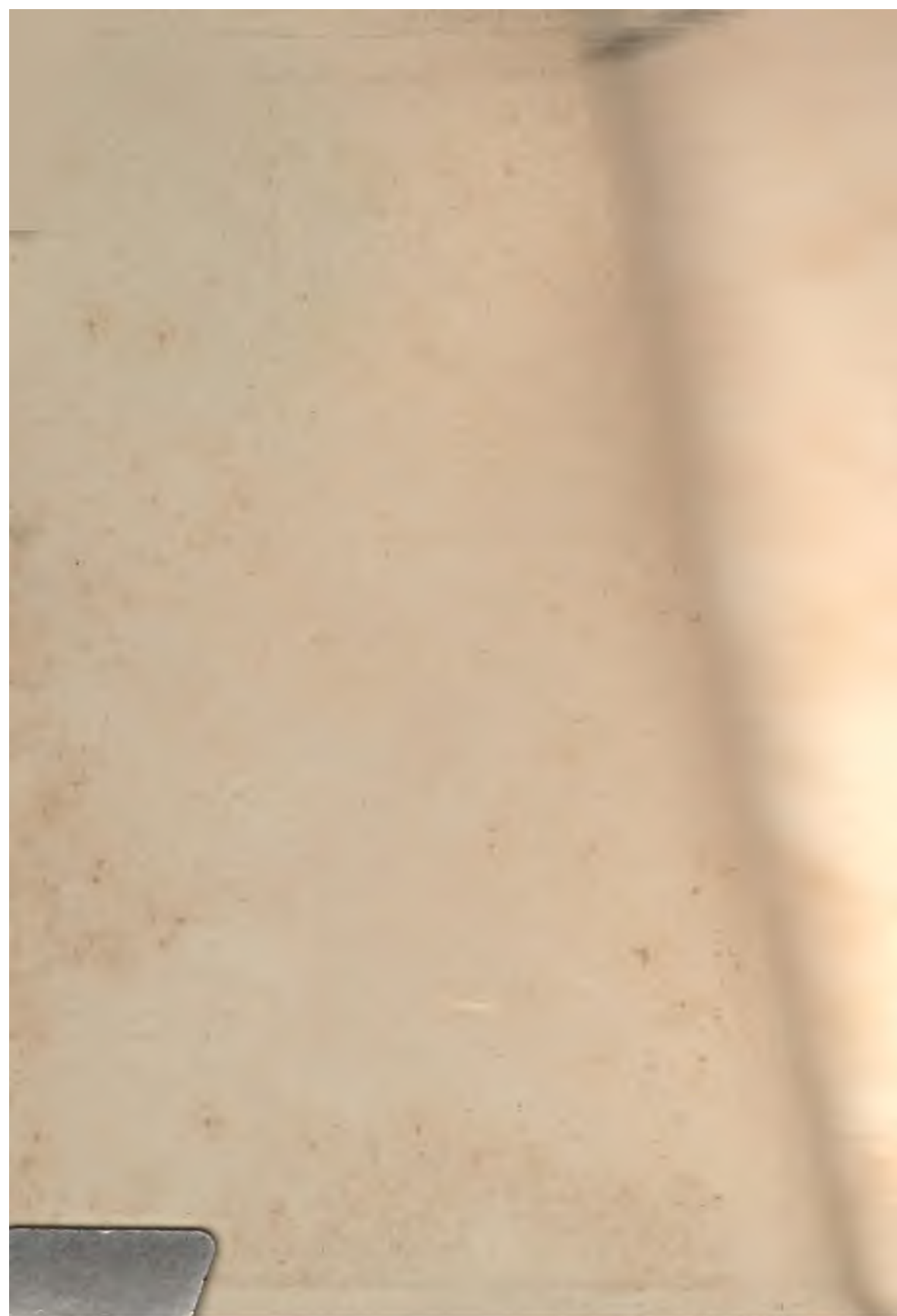
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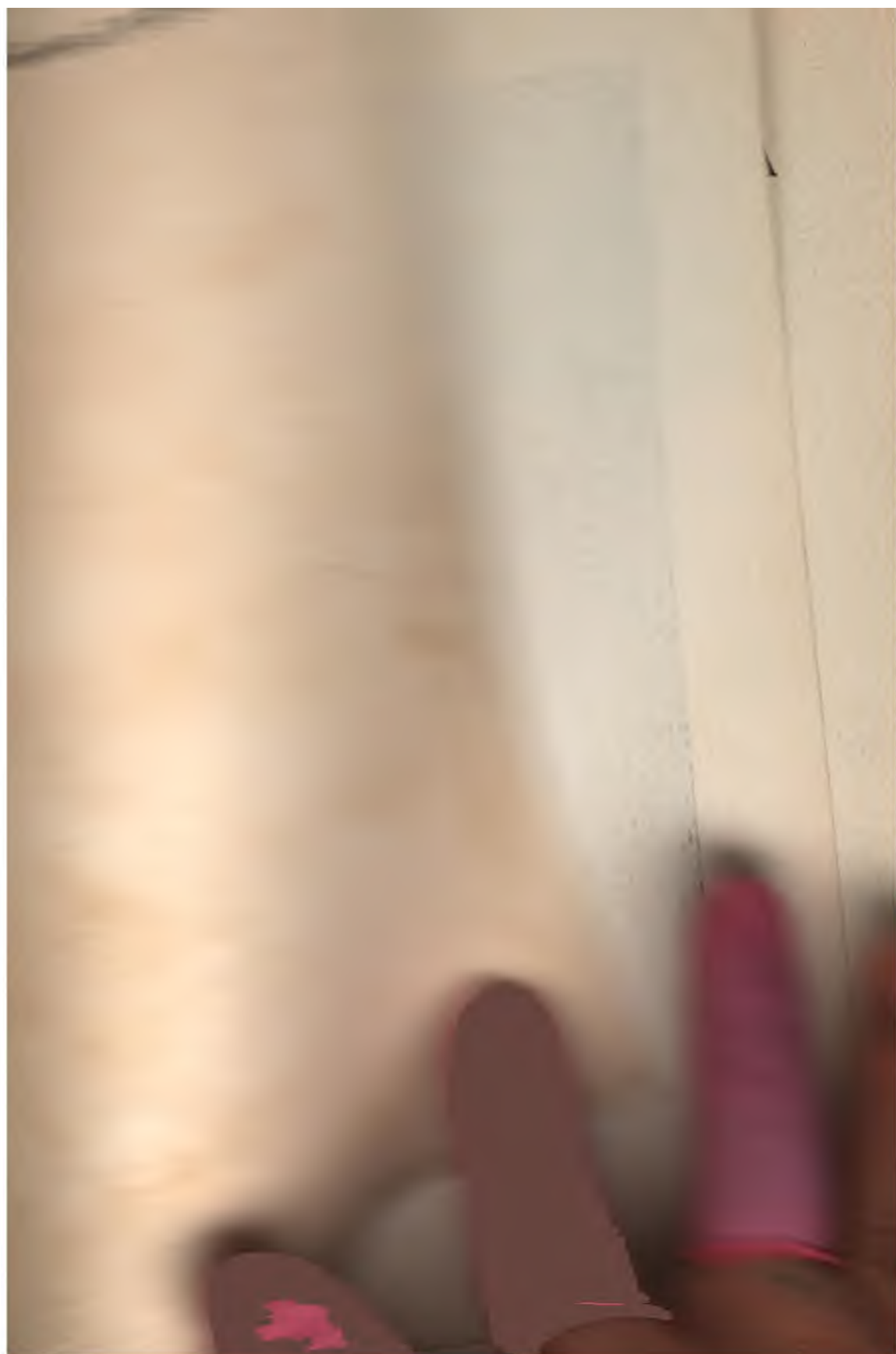
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THE STORY OF CHINA

WITH A DESCRIPTION
OF THE EVENTS
RELATING TO THE
PRESENT STRUGGLE

NEVILLE P. EDWARDS





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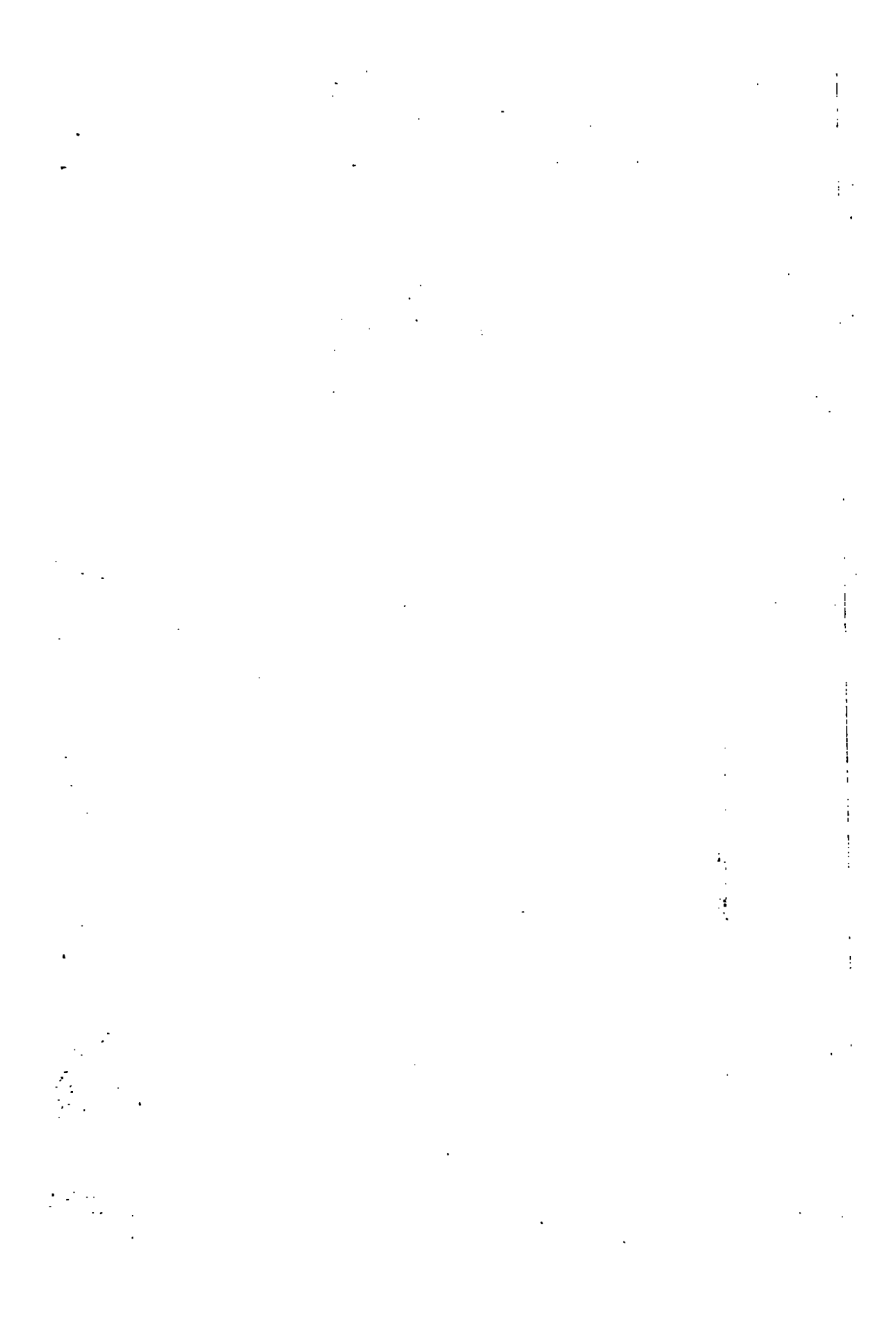




Photo by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

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ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

THE STORY OF CHINA

WITH A DESCRIPTION
OF THE EVENTS
RELATING TO THE PRESENT STRUGGLE

BY
NEVILLE P. EDWARDS

AUTHOR OF
"THE TRANSVAAL IN WAR AND PEACE"

WITH
OVER SEVENTY ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS
FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR AND OTHERS, AND FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS

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CHAPTER I.

The Problem before us.

The China Thunderbolt—What is before us?—China's Vast Size and Population—China against the World—Her Wonderful Literature and System of Law.

"Truth is stranger than fiction."

IF anyone a few months ago had prophesied that China, "the sick man of Asia," would have flung **The China Thunder-** down the gauntlet to the **bolt.** whole world, he would have been laughed at as a lunatic. It would have been thought that a power which in a war with a comparatively tiny country like Japan lost no less than 28,000 men against 800 of its opponents, and was finally forced to sue for peace, would have been the last to be again in a hurry to rush to arms. The world indeed had come to regard China as a dying empire. In fact, the only consideration it gave to it was that of the division of its spoil. The nations, in their fear as to the risk of fighting taking place amongst themselves, hesitated, on this account only, to begin the scramble of partition. In any case the idea of China itself having any say in the matter was left out of the reckoning.

And then, suddenly, the Chinese dragon, which all thought dying or dead, gives evidence of having sprung into life. This dragon that was deemed so utterly effete and dying of senile decay gnashes before an amazed Europe with a mouth whose every tooth is a modern "quickfirer" or Maxim, and whose breath raises the whirlwind which

the Powers sowed when they drilled its armies.

What is to be the end of the epoch on which we are now entering? Who

What is can tell? For the situation **before us?** is fraught with such possibilities of danger that he would be a bold man who prophesied that we should be able to say "All is well" at the end thereof. If the Powers, when they have finally conquered China, proceed to parcel out the country amongst themselves, are they not almost sure to bring about a great European war in their quarrelling over the spoil? Even if they should succeed in avoiding this, there is the risk that, just as when boys take a wasps' nest, it will have the effect of scattering the maddened inhabitants far and wide. And, though this scattering might be in the form of peaceful emigration, an invasion of Chinese—the race who can live on what others leave—if it ever takes place, is universally recognised to be the most awful thing that could happen to the rest of the world. In the terrible and deadly war of Peace which men wage with each other under the name of "Competition," the Chinaman would win. He would, with his extraordinarily frugal, hard-working ways, so undersell every

species of manual labour that it would mean to Europeans universal starvation.

For China is not, like its sick brother of Europe—Turkey—a country of small dimensions or small population. The Chinese Empire **China's Great Size and Population.** is actually larger than the whole of Europe. As to its peoples, they are in number so vast that no one even knows their reckoning within a hundred millions. By an official census, more or less accurate, taken in 1813, the population of China Proper alone was set down at 360,279,897. In 1842 it was put down at 413,686,994. England since that day has more than doubled her total; but the most competent authorities on China think that the present figures, if known, would probably be less than more, owing to the dread work of rebellions, famines, and floods.

Whether, however, China possesses three hundred and fifty or four hundred and fifty millions, the real and true significance of the figures is brought home to one when it is realised that, if the peoples of the whole world were mixed together, every third person would be found wearing the yellow face and bland expression of John Chinaman; and that, if all the black races, in their endless numbers of varying tribes, were left out, then the yellow man would outnumber the white in the proportion of nearly three to two.

Next comes the astonishing recollection that all these yellow millions **China** belong to one great empire. **against the World.** Further, that every man of them in his secret heart would be glad to kill the "foreign devil," as he calls the white man, and, as Prince Tuan put it in ordering

the attacks on the Peking Legations, "make China a sealed book." The white nations, on the other hand, are of many kinds, and their aims and objects differ as widely as their jealousies. If united for this veritable battle of Armageddon, they must come from the ends of the earth for this war upon the Beast of Peking.

For this is no small "native war" against undisciplined hordes of savage warriors which confronts the Powers. The failure of Admiral Seymour's relief expedition, and the experiences at Tientsin of the first force of 20,000 picked soldiers of England, Russia, Germany, America, France, and Japan, would seem to show that there was some measure of truth in the oft-repeated statement that the Japanese War furnished no criterion at all as to China's military power, as her best forces were never employed at all.

Be this as it may, it is admitted that the Chinaman in war, as in the common **Character of the Foe.** petition of peace, is no foe to be underrated. He has faults, and bad ones; but he has his good qualities in an equal degree. His courage, born though it may be from his indifference to human life, whether of others or his own, is well known. In power of hard work he reigns supreme. Take, for instance, his ideas of working "overtime." In a busy period, as in the Hankow tea season, he will continue his day's work right through the night, and do this for five days in every six. As to endurance of privation, the reputation of "Chinkie" for living on almost nothing, and thriving where a white man would starve, is a proverb. Though it seems strange to say so at a time like the present, he is naturally of a peaceable nature, and, generally



PACKING TEA.

In busy seasons the Chinese employed on this work will continue their labours right through the whole twenty-four hours for days together. The photograph, showing how the tea is pressed down by naked feet into the familiar quaint boxes, is a veritable peep behind the scenes.

speaking, more ready to reason than resort to force. The tendency of this latter predilection for words instead of blows, it should be pointed out, however, as with many other peace-at-any-

price people, is that lies and deceit find a preference to the honesty of straightforward knocks.

That he is not wanting in brain power is proved by his wonderful



A GROUP OF CHINESE LITERATI.

Almost every man in the empire who can afford it tries to get his degree in literature, so as to be made a mandarin. There is no limit to age; old men over eighty go on presenting themselves year after year at the competitive examinations. How few can win admission into the sacred ranks of mandarindom may be gathered from the fact that sometimes as many as 10,000 or 20,000 people present themselves for examination when there are only 100 degrees to be conferred. The literati are the backbone of half the anti-foreign sentiment. Their ignorance is only equalled by the extent of their useless knowledge: their education is utterly impractical, being almost entirely confined to the ancient classics.

literature; and that the principles of government and of civilised life are

Their perfectly familiar to him it **Wonderful** is sufficient to only take a **Literature** glance at his complete code **and Laws.** of laws. As a very able

critic, writing in the *Edinburgh Review* on the Tartar-Chinese penal code, remarked: "When we turn from the ravings of the Zendavesta to the tone of sense and of business of this Chinese collection, we seem to be passing from darkness to light; from the drivellings of dotage to the exercise of an improved understanding; and redundant and minute as these laws are in many particulars,

we scarcely know any European code that is at once so copious and so consistent, or that is nearly so free from intricacy, bigotry, and fiction."

As in literature, philosophy, and law, so in material things—a people which gave to the world great discoveries such as those of printing, gunpowder, and the mariner's compass, though they are hampered and cramped to an extraordinary degree by their rock-fixed customs, superstitions, and prejudices, cannot therefore be dismissed as a foe of no account, even though all Europe should be pitted against them.

CHAPTER II.

The Origin and Early History of the Chinese.

Their Wonderful Antiquity—The Beginning of Real History—The Great Wall—Burning the Records—Early Christian Missionary Efforts—Discovery of Printing—Points of Resemblance to English History—The Ming Dynasty.

*"Through the shadow of the globe we sweep into the younger day.
Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay."*

TENNYSON.

WHENCE came this extraordinary race, who, while attaining such a pitch of civilisation and advancement, at the same time exhibit in many things such of the utter barbarism? History fails to find an answer. The

antiquity of the Chinese is just as extraordinary as everything else about them. Go back into the darkness of time, long ere the birth of the Christian Era, and you find the Chinese a great nation; go back still further, to the very confines of history, to a time prior even to the birth of the mighty and now dead empires of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon, to say nothing of Greece and Rome, and still you find the Chinese an established people. In short, even fable and mythology seem to fail in describing their origin and rise. Indeed, their very earliest legends seem to always treat of the nation as already in existence. Thus, Puan-Koo, the earliest name in their legend-history, and the other fancifully named successors to him, are said to have reigned in all for thousands of years. Then came the great but mystic Fohy, who "invented the arts of music and numbers." Long after him came the Emperor Shun, in whose time the Chinese set down a legend they have of a great flood, which many suppose to have been the Mosaic Deluge.

Solid authentic history, however, begins with the period of Chow, who reigned no less than 1,100

The Beginning of Real Chinese History. years before Christ. During his reign the great Confucius lived and wrote his immortal books. This dynasty of

Chow lasted for 800 years, till the King of Tsin, one of the petty states into which China was then broken up, conquered the rest and commenced a fresh line of emperors. This first emperor of the Tsin Dynasty made a landmark in Chinese history: a landmark that has stood for 2,000 years, and stands to this day for all the world

The Great to see—the Great Wall;

Wall. that marvellous monument of human industry which through all time since its erection has been accounted one of the seven wonders of the world. It was built as a protection against the inroads of nomadic Tartar tribes who came down from the hardy North just as did the Picts and Scots on the early Britons. For over 1,400 miles along the northern frontier of China this extraordinary work runs in unbroken continuity. Over mountains and through valleys it goes; even rivers are bridged to carry it across. It varies from 15 to 30 feet in height; at the base it is 25 feet wide; on the top it is so broad that two or



THE GREAT WALL.

China's most wonderful monument of the perseverance of her people, erected to keep out the predatory Tartar tribes. The view shows where the wall divides. The main wall is over 1,400 miles and the second wall over 500 miles long, so that the total length is nearly 2,000 miles.

The Origin and Early History of the Chinese 11

three carriages could anywhere be driven abreast. As will be noticed in the picture on page 10, it is fortified at frequent intervals by towers. For purposes of modern defence it is now of course altogether useless. In many parts, indeed, it is little better than a shapeless rubbish-heap.

The first emperor of the Tsin Dynasty perpetuated his memory by destruction as well as creation. It is **Burning** to him posterity owes the **the** present lack of definite early **Records.** history of China. He ordered all the learned books to be burned; even those of Confucius—every one on which he could lay his hands, but fortunately not all—shared the same fate.

From the time of the epoch-making Tsins, various dynasties succeeded each other at intervals of every three or four centuries, whose fortunes it would not be profitable to follow in this brief history.

One point, however, stands out in this long procession of the centuries of intense interest to Christian **Early** Europe. Du Halde mentions that the Jesuits found **Christian** in Shensi a stone monument bearing the date A.D. 640. It bore the Christian's cross, an epitome of Christian law, and, in Syriac characters, the names of seventy-two **Missionary** Christian preachers. This appears to point to the fact that apostles of the Nestorian Church were actually at work preaching Christ in China over a thousand years before the modern missionary movement. What happened to this little band is lost to history. Whether they gave their blood as martyrs to their faith, like many other missionaries in our own day, or whether they retired from the apparently hopeless task of beating

down Chinese superstition and prejudice, we shall probably never know.

The dynasty, under which these Nestorian Christians lived, came to an **Discovery** end in A.D. 897. You realise **of** again the antiquity of this **Printing.** people and the advanced state of their civilisation when you read that the art of printing was in full swing during the Soong Dynasty, which began in A.D. 950, and remember that it was 100 years before the Norman William conquered England, and 500 years before this most vital art was known to ourselves.

In some ways Chinese history possesses several striking points of resemblance to the history of our

Resem- own land. Besides the mis-
blance to sionary efforts to which we
Events have alluded, which have
in English their parallel in the mission
History. of Gregory the Great to England, a still more striking coincidence is furnished by what took place about the time of which we are now treating. Just as our forefathers called in the aid of the Saxons to repel foes from the North, only to find that their independence was taken away by the men they had called in to help preserve it, so the Chinese, having invited the aid of the Mongols against the Tartars, were soon subdued by the allies they had invited to protect them. Here, however, the parallel ends; for these Mongols, becoming in their turn

The enervated, had to give place
Ming in A.D. 1366 to the native
Dynasty. Chinese Ming Dynasty, which preceded the one now, or till lately, ruling at Peking.

The Mings, however, did not have their capital at Peking. They moved it down to the more central position of Nanking, which was the imperial city

The Story of China

till just before they were in their turn overthrown by the Manchu Tartars. These latter have been the govern-

Such, in brief, are the main outlines of Chinese history up to the time when China and the nations of Europe began



From "Intimate China," by Mrs. Archibald Little.

A RELIC OF THE OLD MING DYNASTY : THE APPROACH TO MING EMPEROR'S TOMB NEAR NANKING. These images of animals in stone are exceedingly grotesque. It is believed the idea of them is to conceal the exact spots where the emperors are buried.

ing race in China ever since 1644, and from them the present Ta-Tsing Dynasty has its origin.

to come much in contact with each other. The story of their relations must begin with a separate chapter.

CHAPTER III.

How Trouble began with Europe, and the Events which led up to the War of 1840.

Manchu Hatred of Foreigners—Beginnings of European Trade—Early Travellers from Europe—Cause of Manchu Hatred—Origin of the Pigtail—Traders forced to Grovel—Impositions and Exactions—The Beautiful Art of "Squeegee-pidgin"—The Making of a Mandarin—The Co-Hong—Fate of an Embassy to Tientsin—The Opium Trouble—First Murmurs of the Storm—What Europeans had to stand—What the Chinese failed to realise—Story of the *Centaur*—A Typical British Captain—Idea of Lord Napier's Mission—Its Reception—Chinese Official View of Trading—Chinese View of the English—Failure of Lord Napier's Mission—British Apathy.

*"For East is East and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet."*

RUDYARD KIPLING.

CHINA has not always been the same exclusive "foreign-devil"-hating country it is to-day. Under the old **Manchu** **Hatred of** Ming Dynasty foreigners **Foreigners**, were made rather welcome than otherwise. The Mings, as before

mentioned, were a native Chinese dynasty, with all the Chinaman's trading instincts; but when they were supplanted in 1644 by the haughty Manchu invaders, and the Ta-Tsing Dynasty came into power, the most



THE HARBOUR OF AMOY.

Amoy is one of the Treaty Ports. It is opposite the Island of Formosa, and is interesting as having been the first place in China where an English trading station was established.



A MONUMENT OF CHINA'S EARLY ADVANCEMENT IN SCIENCE: PEKING OBSERVATORY.

This observatory proves the truth of the statement that what we in England speak of as the "Dark Ages" were days of real scientific advancement in China. It was founded in 1279 by the famous Mongol emperor Kublai Khan, to contain the instruments of the great Chinese astronomer Ko-chow-ting. Some of these Mongol instruments are still there after all these centuries. The most interesting of them is a very curious water-clock, which marks the time by the rate at which water drips away. The other instruments were erected in the time of the Ming Dynasty, nearly 250 years ago, under the advice of the Jesuit Fathers, who had far greater power in Peking then than any missionaries have had since.

utter contempt was manifested by the new-comers for all foreigners in general and those engaged in trade in particular. This policy they have continued, with all the obstinacy with which a Chinaman follows a tradition, unto this day.

The first European people who appear to have established themselves in direct trading relations with China were the Portuguese, who have possessed a factory at Macao, in the mouth of the Canton River, since 1557. Great Britain, or rather its representative, the Honourable East India Company, did not come upon the scene until 1625. They then opened a branch

agency at Amoy, at which place they continued to exist until 1681, when the Manchus destroyed the agency and turned them out.

It is hardly necessary to say that China had been known to Europeans for a very much longer period than the time we have now under contemplation. For instance, Franciscan monks visited the great Kublai Khan at Peking in the middle of the thirteenth century, about the same time as the famous Marco Polo was making his travels through the country. They appear to have been the first and last people who ever succeeded in really gaining the ear of a Chinese emperor; for the

Early Travellers from Europe.

great Khan actually sent from Peking to the Pope, asking that wise and earnest teachers should be sent out and posted all over his empire. The Church failed to respond. To this day she has never had another chance. One of the Franciscan monks, however, was made Archbishop of Peking. If the success gained in those days had been followed up, how different would have been the history of the East!

To return, however, to the beginnings of European trade with China under the Ta-Tsing Dynasty. **Cause of Manchu Hatred.** With the Manchus a new order had indeed commenced. Whether, as Huc points out, the Manchus were compelled, on account of the smallness of their numbers, to adopt their stringent measures, it is hard to say. It may have been, as he suggests, fear lest foreigners should be tempted to snatch from them their prey which caused them to carefully close all the ports of China.

It is only fair to the Manchus to say they were just as arbitrary in their treatment of their Chinese subjects. The Chinaman's pigtail—now his pride and glory, to cut off which is, to him, only second to slicing off his head altogether—was forced on the astonished Chinese by the Manchus, who insisted on its adoption as a national coiffure, under penalty of death for refusal.

As to foreigners, whether of England or any other nation, it was soon made clear to them that any trading would only be permitted on their humbly acknowledging the supremacy of the Manchus. Trade with China in those days was doubtless an exceedingly profitable thing. Even then, however, it is hard to understand how Europeans, least of

all Englishmen, for nearly 200 years consented to grovel, as they did for its sake, at the feet of the loathsome Chinese, putting up with whatsoever indignities, exactions, and extortions the yellow men chose to impose. This was the sort of thing that had to be swallowed with such grace as could be mustered. Directly a vessel arrived, it was boarded by an officer of the Hoppo (the Imperial Superintendent of the Customs) and by another officer from the Imperial household. These had to be mollified by what they called "a tumshaw." If the amount of it did not come up to their expectations, then every imaginable extortionate charge and tax would be levied.

Only when, after much bargaining, the amount due for duties had been **Impositions and Exactions.** arrived at, would the ship be allowed to proceed to the port of Canton; and then trade could only be opened through the intermediary of an officially recognised Chinese merchant. This was bad enough, but in 1702 scorpions took the place of whips. The Chinese appointed a third gentleman to supervise, called "the Emperor's Merchant." He, of course, had also to be propitiated. Everything had to pass through the hands of this "Monster in Trade," as the East India Company's supercargoes dubbed him; for he was sole intermediary between the foreigners and the native merchants. What a lovely position it must have been for the one who held it!

In China, however, a man has to be already wealthy before he can get hold of a job of this kind, with all **The Beautiful Art of Squeeging** its unlimited opportunities of extortion. For in the "Flowery Land" kissing goes, not by favour, but by cash—at

least so far as obtaining these posts is concerned. The operation of "squeegee-pidgin," as it is called, is there carried to a fine art. If you are a Chinese mandarin, before you can have the opportunity of "squeezing" others—that is, extorting money out of them by every means under the sun—you must first of all have been squeezed yourself, and have had to pay very heavy sums to the powers above you. The said powers above you have in their turn been squeezed by those higher up. So it goes on, right up to the Imperial household. It reminds one of the famous doggerel,—

"These little fleas that vex us so
Have other fleas to bite 'em,
And these in turn have lesser fleas,
And so *ad infinitum*."

To show how *ad infinitum* the business really is, this "squeegee" process **The Making of a Mandarin.** often commences with a Chinaman's earliest years. A mandarin, it must be remembered, is made, and not born. He climbs to the various positions from which he looks down on—and squeezes—his neighbours by passing competitive examinations in Chinese literature. So it comes about that a poor boy with exceptional brains is actually a subject for the "squeegee" speculator. The speculator is as often as not a native banker or wealthy mandarin, who pays for the boy's education and trains him like a race-horse—not from philanthropy, but so that, should he pass his examinations and become a mandarin, he shall hand over all his extortions to his benefactor (?) until such time as his debt has been paid ten times over. A higher mandarin—one who administers the laws, for instance—can borrow from whom he likes without the unpleasant

necessity of paying back. The lenders know full well that, if they do not comply, they will soon get into trouble on some charge or other. In many of the inland villages the arrival of a Justice of the Peace will cause the inhabitants to bolt to cover like rabbits at the sight of a dog.

Whether, even with the addition of "the Emperor's Merchant," the Chinese

The Co-Hong. felt they were not getting enough squeeze out of the hated foreigner, it is hard to say, but in 1720 they replaced "the Monster" by a body of Chinese traders, called the Co-Hong. At first this arrangement seemed to have in it more of the elements of fair trading and straightforward charges, as these Co-Hong merchants were as a body jointly responsible for each other's solvency. It was soon found, however, that it simply meant so many more people to be propitiated with tips. Seven years later the duties levied were increased by an additional tax on all exports and imports.

To get this tax removed, an appeal, couched in the humblest language of **Fate of an Embassy to Tientsin.** grovelling supplication, had to be made. This, however, placed more discredit on those who made than on those who received the appeal. But a lurid light is thrown on the conduct of the Chinese to Europeans in those days, by their treatment of the representative who was sent to Tientsin in 1759 to protest against certain new extortions and prohibitions. Directly he returned to Canton, he was, together with the other supercargoes, seized by order of the local Viceroy. They were thrown on the ground and forced to *kowtow*—that is, kneel and knock their foreheads on the ground; while the one who had been sent to Tientsin, to (as the local



A MANDARIN AND HIS RETINUE.

The gentleman in the fur-bordered jacket is about to make an afternoon call in his sedan-chair. Mandarin and high officials only are allowed to use these chairs in Peking; but in the provinces they are the principal means of transport employed by Europeans.

officials considered) carry tales of their doings, was put into prison and kept there for some years.

which was dissolved in 1771, was re-imposed, under a new name and rather worse features, eleven years later; how



GIVING EVIDENCE IN A COURT OF JUSTICE.

From "Intimate China," by Mrs. Archibald Little.

It is useless here to go into the endless tale of Chinese indignities and extortions. Suffice it to mention how the old Co-Hong,

in 1805 a further special tax was imposed, and in 1818 a vexatious prohibition restricting the export of silver. This arose through the greatly

increasing demand of the Chinese for opium, which caused the balance of trade to be no longer in their favour. The tables, in fact, were being turned with a vengeance. All the money we paid to them for tea and silk was as nothing to what we had now to receive for our opium.

It was this matter which began to cause the first real mutterings of the storm that had been long brewing. Another cause which hastened its advent was that, as the end of the East India Company's monopoly approached, a new and very different class of English and other traders began to appear. These new-comers simply would not put up with the haughty assumption of superiority which the Chinese displayed to the old East India Company's men.

How it was tolerated so long is simply inconceivable. It makes the blood boil to think that our countrymen were only allowed to trade, and did trade, on the express understanding that they belonged to a subject suppliant state. It was made clear to them that they must not think that they were equals even of the lowest of the Celestial Empire's inhabitants; and though they might sometimes be permitted to sojourn in the suburbs of a city like Canton, they must not presume to pass its gates under any pretext. If they wanted servants, they must take them from the outcast boat population, and no other. It was a horrible condition of things, and was as certain to lead to a recourse to arms as was the treatment meted out to the Uitlanders by the Boers prior to the war now ending.

No more than the Boers, could the

Chinese realise that, far away over the waters, there was at the back of the foreigners immense armed strength, which must prevail if once aroused. To be sure, the haughty yellow men had had one or two little tastes of something a trifle different from the supplications of grovelling traders for the honour of dealing with them.

There is, for instance, that delightful story of how the first British man-of-war, the *Centaur*, made its appearance at Canton. The Chinese officials thought to treat it as an ordinary trader, and stopped it in the usual way at the mouth of the Canton River. But its captain caused them to know that he was an officer of His Majesty King George the Second of England; that he was going to pass their forts and proceed up to Canton whether they would or no; and what was more, when he got there, he was going to call on their Viceroy. His sailorly plain-speaking so staggered them that he actually got up to Canton without a shot being fired against him. He even accomplished his expressed intention of calling on the Viceroy. That mighty functionary also was so taken aback that he could not do aught but receive him; but "treated him to cold tea and ice-cold etiquette," as Mr. Eitel so happily describes the episode in his book "Europe in China."

About seventy years later (1816) another of our warships had an equally amusing *rencontre* with Chinese officialdom. Our captain, when asked to "declare the nature of his cargo" and obtain the security of two Hong merchants, replied, "My cargo is powder and shot, and"—pointing to his big

What the Chinese failed to realise.

First Mutterings of the Storm.

What Europeans had to stand.

Story of the "Centaur."

A Typical British Captain.

guns—"there is my security!" When, as might be expected, he received a stern refusal for his ship to enter the Bogue, he sent a polite intimation of the hour when he was coming. Then, at the appointed time, he sailed past the spitting forts in leisurely style, fired the first gun with his own hands, and on reaching Whampoa, the port of Canton, resumed intercourse as if nothing had happened.

As a set-off, however, to these events, embassies, bearing valuable gifts, which were sent by King George III. in 1793 and 1816 to the Court at Peking, were treated by the Chinese as deputations of a vassal state bearing tribute. The Court chroniclers even had the ineffable arrogance to calmly enter Great Britain in the roll of "tributary nations."

In consequence of this intolerable condition of affairs between the two countries, the celebrated and ill-fated mission of Lord Napier was conceived. Its main idea was to establish direct diplomatic communication with the Imperial Court at Peking, as well as to put a proper representative of the British Government at the head of the English traders, who had hitherto received little official recognition. The haughty mandarins had always regarded them as mere pedlars, whom they could treat how they liked; but now (1834) that the monopoly of the East India Company in the China trade had come to an end, it was thought that, by the appointment of Lord Napier as "Superintendent of British trade in China," their status might be considerably improved.

The haughty Viceroy of Canton, however, refused to treat the representative of the British Government in

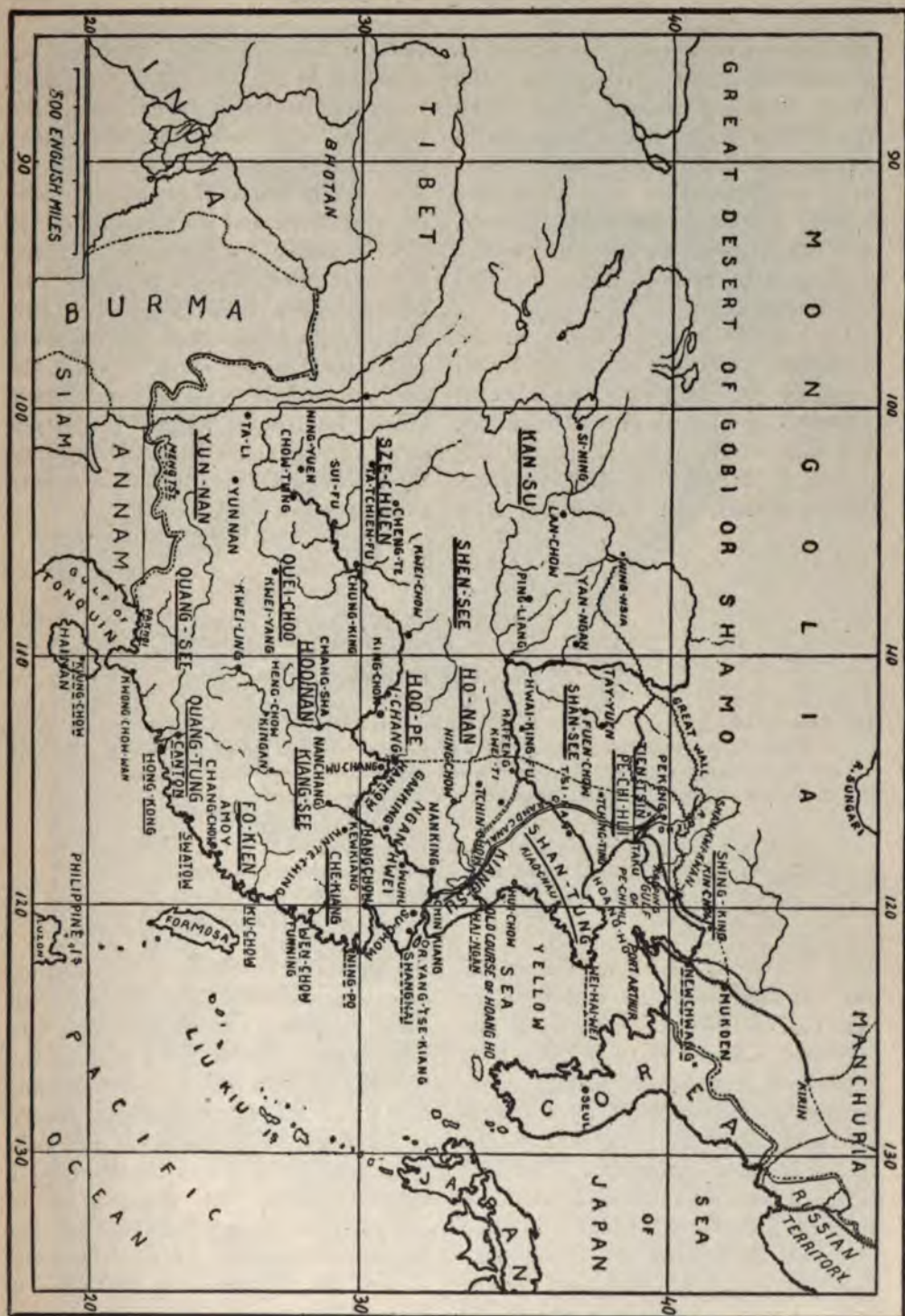
any better way than the meanest trader. He would not even receive

Its his letters, neither would he **Reception.** write to him direct. Actually, he sent him word through the Hong merchants "that he could hold no communication with outside barbarians." In response to a subsequent letter, Lord Napier was informed, "Never has there been such a thing as official correspondence with a barbarian headman." As to questions of trade, the reply was: "The commissioned officers of the Celestial Empire never take cognisance of the trivial affairs of trade."

Trade, it should be remembered, in the eyes of Chinese officialdom, is something almost too degrading **Chinese** for words. Their view of **Official** the case was that, if the **View of** Emperor of China, in his **Trading.** tender mercy even to barbarians, permitted it, they must not object to being treated with every indignity under heaven.

For it must be borne in mind that the Chinaman and European are as far **Chinese** apart in instincts and dis- **View of the** position as their countries **English.** are separated by distance. The Chinaman, seeing only traders, who appeared to have no soul for anything beside money or sensual pleasures, could not realise anything of the science, the art, the literature, or the advancement of England; any more than the trader, utterly ignorant of his language, could appreciate the yellow man's cherished literature and philosophy.

Lord Napier, in consequence, was treated on the same terms as these **Failure of** lowly regarded traders. It **Lord** was unpardonable on the **Napier's** part of our Government **Mission.** that, having been sent out, he was not properly backed up by them.



The Story of China

Insults were showered upon him, which he had no means of resenting. His health eventually broke down under it all. His doctor had to make terms for him which left the British traders in a worse position than they were before. He was forced to leave Canton, and was escorted by the Chinese like a prisoner to Macao. There he died of a broken heart.

Only those who, by living in the Transvaal, had an opportunity of knowing the reality of the recent **British Apathy**. grievances of the Uitlanders, and who wondered at the apathy displayed by the British public for years in the matter, can have some faint

idea of how, in 1834, it calmly acquiesced in the disgraceful expulsion of its representative from Canton. But if the mills of God grind slowly, they grind exceeding small eventually. It took seven years of treatment, ever growing worse and worse, to arouse the British public to the duty of maintaining honour, if need be at the cost of war. For seven years they permitted representatives of our nation to be treated as the mere scum of the earth, denied the ordinary courtesies of official intercourse, when a few of our ships of war could have blown down their forts and brought the Chinese to their senses in a few hours.

CHAPTER IV.

The War of 1840.

The Last Straw—Increase of the Opium Traffic—Seizure of Opium—The Lion wakes—War at Last—Force the only Argument—War in Earnest—Second Battle of Chuenpi—How we got Hong Kong—Chinese Treachery—Renewal of Hostilities—More Treachery—Effect of an Eclipse—Superstition and Incompetence of Chinese Officers—Treaty of Nanking.

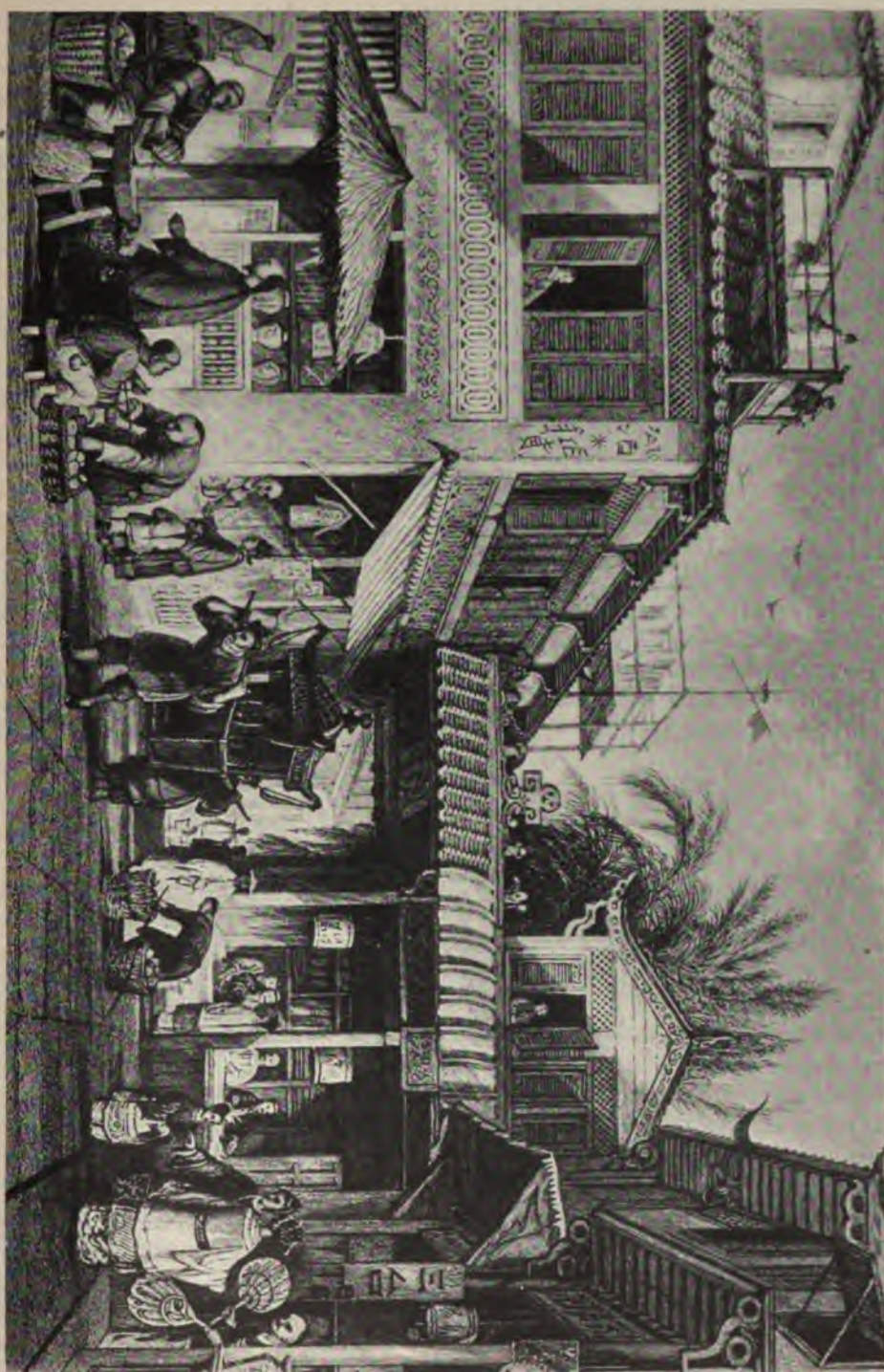
*"From her wooden walls—lit by sure hands—
With thunders, and with lightnings, and with smoke—
Peal after peal, the British battle broke."*

TENNYSON.

THE last straw which forced on the war of 1840 was the extraordinary **The Last Straw**. outrage committed by the Chinese in 1839, when they imprisoned the whole foreign community of Canton, and forced them to hand over for confiscation the opium in their possession. The war of 1840, occurring not long after this incident, has been by many, in consequence, designated an opium war, in a way not at all borne out by the facts. Really, of course, it was to put China in her proper place. It was

the inevitable outcome of the abominable treatment she had meted out to Europeans from the days of their first intercourse with her. As regards the opium, it is true the Chinese Government had for many years nominally prohibited the importation of that soul-destroying drug. Not, however, be it carefully noted, on account of its causing moral deterioration of the people, but simply, as already mentioned, on account of the way it drained the country of money.

From the commencement of the



A STREET IN CANTON.

nineteenth century the opium traffic had increased by leaps and bounds.

Increase of the Opium Traffic. In 1750 the import was 200 chests; in 1796 it was 4,000; but in 1836 it was 20,000.

How nominal was the prohibition of the Chinese Government may be inferred from the fact that the commodore of the Chinese fleet, Hou Shiuhing, who was supposed to prevent the traffic, actually convoyed the opium vessels, and was paid in opium for his services. His subsequent action is so delightfully typical of the Chinese that it is worth quoting. He took his share and laid it at the feet of the Viceroy, with a beautiful story of how he had captured it by force of arms. Such distinguished merit and devotion to duty met with its reward. The matter was specially reported to the Throne, with the result that the Emperor gave him a peacock's feather and made him a rear-admiral.

The authorities of Canton, where nearly all the trade with Europe was then carried on, were of course the ones who profited most by this semi-illicit opium traffic; and although there is strong evidence to prove that everyone, right up to the Emperor himself, in true Chinese fashion, got his "squeeze" out of it, of course the percentage that reached Peking was relatively small. Consequently, as the Court was not making much, a rabid anti-opium agitator named Lin got permission from them in 1839 to proceed to Canton and seize all the opium.

His method of doing this was as simple as it was outrageous. It consisted of imprisoning all the foreigners in Canton by suddenly surrounding their factories with masses of Chinese soldiery. These

soldiers had orders to burn down the factories and massacre every living soul if all the opium in their hands was not delivered. By this means he forced them to hand over 24,000,000 dollars worth of British-owned opium. His action made Canton so hot for the British that they left, and could not be induced to return. Finally, things got so bad they were forced to retreat to the protection of their own ships, which had taken refuge in Hong Kong harbour, as the Chinese had issued an edict for their destruction.

At last—at very long last—the British lion began to rouse from his slumber. Two ships were ordered to proceed forthwith to the Bogue Forts, at the entrance to the Canton River, carrying a letter demanding that within three days the official orders for destroying English cargo-ships, and refusing permission to English people to reside on shore, should be cancelled. The letter was returned unanswered.

The Chinese squadron of twenty-nine sail stood out to meet the two ships, whose crews realised with joy that knocks and not negotiations were henceforth to be the order of the day. Two ships against twenty-nine! But they out-sailed them and buzzed round them like flies round a horse's head. One war-junk blew up within pistol range, three were sunk, some were water-logged, and the remainder fled as fast as sail could take them. As to Her Majesty's ships, the *Volage* and *Hyacinth*, excepting for slight damage to their masts and rigging, they were not a penny the worse. It came out that, in accordance with the usual Chinese muddling, which has been at the bottom of all their failures



THE RIVER AT CANTON, A SCENE OF MANY BRITISH BATTLES.

This picture conveys a vivid idea of the extent of the native shipping. Owing to the excessive population in the neighbourhood of the big rivers, a large proportion of the Chinese live on the water altogether, like the prehistoric lake-dwellers of Europe.

in war with Europeans, while their powder and guns were good enough, the latter were not fitted with any means of pointing them up or down. Consequently, every shot sung harmlessly over our ships.

It would have been thought that this success would have emboldened the British to have done once for all with the boggy pretensions of China; that, having at last put their hands to the plough, there would have been no turning back. They had yet to learn

Force the only Argument. Chinaman is that of force. To merely request concessions from China's Manchu Government, without armed strength immediately available to back up the requests, was as silly and futile as the "How's Mrs. Kruger" communications of a few years ago, when it was thought that "soft-solder" was all that was necessary to obtain the franchise and every other act of justice from the Transvaal's wily President. If it be true that "history repeats itself," and that what has taken place in the past should serve as a light to our footsteps in the future, then as this story advances it will become clear that the only way to keep the Chinese in their proper place will be to follow the good old fighting rule of "Hit hard, hit early, and hit often." As one turns over the pages which record our dealings with China, one is perfectly staggered to find how, after the infliction of thorough thrashings, the Chinese have been again allowed to assert their pretensions, and to win back by words what they lost in war.

For instance, after this "first battle of Chuenpi," as it was called, nothing further appears to have been done; even although a Chinese Imperial

Edict was published in Canton a fortnight after (November 26th, 1839), that it was "no longer compatible with dignity to continue permitting trade with Great Britain, which must be entirely and for ever stopped." Actually this state of things was allowed to go on for nearly twelve months before England woke up and got together an expeditionary force to uphold her honour.

At last, in June, 1840, seventeen ships of war and 4,000 men arrived **War in Earnest.** to obtain reparation for our long-standing injuries and insults, besides compensation for the opium confiscated by the Chinese. The first measure of the fleet was the blockading of the port of Canton at all its entrances. Then they forced their way to Tientsin, where they handed over a dispatch from Lord Palmerston to the Imperial Court at Peking. This dispatch, besides demanding indemnity for the opium and the opening of Treaty Ports, required that henceforward communications between the two countries should be on the basis of international equality. The Emperor saw that the English meant business, so, in true Chinese fashion, opened negotiations. These dragged on in the usual interminable Eastern way, until the British had the sense to send in another ultimatum.

No answer came to it. So, on January 7th, 1841, commenced the **Second Battle of Chuenpi.** "second battle of Chuenpi." Our fleet sailed up the Canton River and attacked the Bogue Forts. The affair only lasted an hour and a half; but it was an uncommonly well-filled space of time. Some 1,500 marines, who had been landed at the back of the forts, to the tune of our bombardment,



THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE HOGUE FORTS, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1841.



THE CRICKET GROUND, HONG KONG.

No place under the flag of England would be complete without its cricket ground. The view also shows the fine houses belonging to the English residents.

carried them all by assault, killing 500 Chinese and wounding 300 more. Eighteen war-junks were also destroyed by our fleet. What were our casualties? In killed, not one; wounded, thirty-eight. No wonder that the Chinese historian who recorded the affair mentions, "The other three forts farther up the river, commanded by Admiral Kwan, Rear-Admiral Li, and Captain Ma respectively, had only a few hundred in them, who could do nothing but regard each other with weeping eyes"!

Of course, after this, the Chinese commenced more shuffling negotiations.

How we got Hong Kong. Their Imperial Commissioner, Kishen, who had been sent down to arrange

affairs at Canton, of his own accord offered to cede Hong Kong in exchange for the captured Bogue Forts. Beside this, he offered to pay an indemnity,

and promised that we should be admitted to a footing of international equality. England at once took possession of Hong Kong (January 26th, 1841), and seems to have imagined, as she has so often done since in her dealings with the Chinese, that a millennium of peace and loving brotherly feeling was about to begin.

Our representatives appear to have been quite unable to realise that, when

Chinese an opponent proves himself **Treachery.** dangerous, according to Mr. John Chinaman's instincts, it is safer to smile on him and open negotiations, and then employ a friend to go behind him and do what is needful with a knife. Thus Kishen invited Captain Elliot and the leading British officers two days afterwards to have lunch with him. He beamed upon them and smiled with all the cordiality of

an old chum, while the words of an edict he had just received from the Emperor were running in his head: "Let a large body of troops be assembled, and let an awful display of Celestial vengeance be made."

Fortunately soon afterwards we received a hint of the little game; so, **Renewal of Hostilities.** when the Chinese renewed hostilities, we were fully ready to play our part. Once again we landed troops, and stormed the forts still higher up the river towards Canton. One after another they were all carried; 250 Chinese were killed, 100 wounded, and 1,000 made prisoners, while 300 of their guns were spiked. Every day thereafter we sailed farther up, destroying battery after battery;

and, though befooled with repeated negotiations, by the middle of the following March had placed the city of Canton at the mercy of our guns.

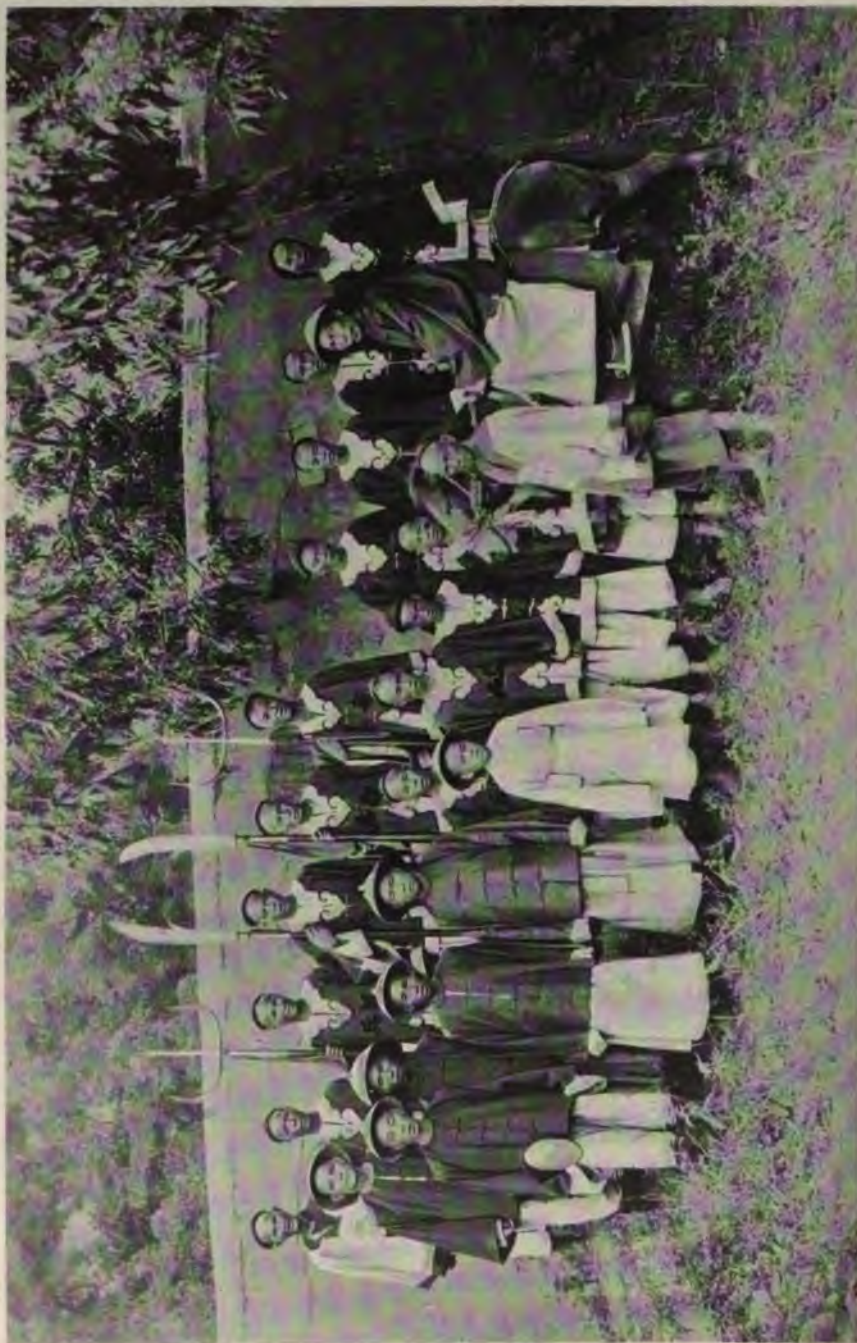
Negotiations followed, and another truce was declared. It would be thought that by this time we should have lost

More Treachery. some of our dove-like confidence in the word of the Chinese, and refused to treat. Of course we did not refuse; and, as a result, in the following May the treacherous yellow men, who had been quietly making cannon, rearming forts, and pouring up troops, suddenly commenced a fresh attack. Fire-ships, carrying stink-pots and fire-balls, came driving down the river upon the British fleet. Fortunately we got



CONFUCIAN TEMPLE AT NANKING.

Confucius, who lived 1,100 years before Christ, fills a similar place in the Chinese religion to that which Mahomet does in that of the Turks. The Chinaman, however, in a general way feels that it is not safe to trust to one creed for getting to the regions of the blest, so he mixes with his Confucianism equal parts of Buddhism, Taoism, and ancestor-worship. Nanking, the old capital of China under the Ming Dynasty, it has been suggested, should be again made the seat of government, to get rid of the corrupt surroundings of the Court at Peking.



SOME OF CHINA'S COMIC SOLDIERS.

These soldiers, armed with the extraordinary three-pronged bayonets and theatrical-looking pikes, are much better off than those of China's regiments who even to this day are equipped to go forth to war with birdcages or fans only, in default of any other arms. In one of our bombardments of the Bogue, Forts the soldiers were observed coolly fanning themselves amid showers of shot and shell.

wind of the affair beforehand, so were fully on the alert. The "handy-man" was just as handy then as he is to-day. He rained shot and shell on the fire-ships and war-junks, so that 100 of them were captured and burned. Then, with true British recklessness, 2,000 men landed to take the enormous city of Canton. A considerable portion

ised their utter inability to cope with England, and the need of making a lasting peace.

One of the things that helped to bring them into this more reasonable

Effect of frame of mind was nothing **an Eclipse.** less than—an eclipse of the sun. Such an event, to the superstitious Chinese, was clear evidence of



GATE OF THE CITY OF AMOY.

of it had already fallen into our hands, when Captain Elliot, the British Plenipotentiary, was foolish enough to conclude another treaty.

The consequence of this premature peace was that within a few months the war was in full swing again. Amoy and Chusan quickly fell into our hands, and it was not until the British fleet had sailed up the Yangtse, and threatened the ancient capital of China, Nanking, that Chinese statesmen real-

some approaching disaster of an awful character.

These extraordinary superstitions, which so fill the mind of "Chinkie,"

Supersti- are a terrible handicap to
tion and him, whether in war or
Incompe- peace. A splendid illustration
tence. of this is given in Mrs.

Little's "Intimate China." A German officer, who had been acting as general at Woosung, was called on to hand over his command to a Chinese general.

His men were drawn up and waiting all day, but his pigtailed successor failed to put in an appearance. He had suddenly discovered it was an unlucky day! The conclusion of her story, showing what happened when he did take over his command, is such a delightful illustration of Chinese military incompetence and ignorance of the principles of discipline, that I take the liberty of quoting it:—

“A Sunday was next appointed, and the German sent to inform him that all the men would again be drawn up, and that when he saw the Chinese general riding forward he would give order, ‘Shoulder arms! Present arms!’ then the Chinese general must say ‘Order Arms!’ and then the command would be given over. ‘But surely I am not expected to ride? I cannot possibly ride,’ replied the Chinese general. The German persisted he must ride. So on the appointed day there appeared the Chinese general huddled on to a very small pony, with two men holding it, one on each side,

and a third holding an umbrella over him, for it was raining hard. He at once shouted out his word of command; but as the previous order had not been given, it could not be followed. The German tried to explain this. ‘Oh,’ said the Chinese general, ‘I cannot believe it does any good to be kept out in the rain like this. Just tell the men they can go away. This will do for to-day.’”

As a result of the eclipse, and the evident hopelessness of continuing the **Treaty of war**, a final treaty, called **Nanking**, the “Treaty of Nanking,” was solemnly concluded on August 29th, 1842. By its provisions five ports—Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai—were to be opened for the residence of British merchants and their families; the perpetual cession of Hong Kong to Great Britain was confirmed; and, besides the payment of an indemnity of 6,000,000 dollars for the opium destroyed, a further 12,000,000 dollars was agreed to be paid as a war indemnity to the victorious British.

CHAPTER V.

How England was again forced to Arms.

Chinese Invincible Arrogance—A Roland for an Oliver—Expedition of 1847—Revival of Anti-Foreign Feeling—The Yellow Mystery—Chinese Oddities—How the Chinese avoid Devils—The Taiping Rebellion—Its Leader—Renewed Insults—Viceroy Yeh's Behaviour—A Specimen of Chinese Sentiment—Trouble brewing again.

*“Tender-handed, touch a nettle,
And it stings thee for thy pains;
Grasp it like a man of mettle,
And it soft as silk remains.”*

ON reaching this point in our narrative, the reader might well be excused **Chinese** for thinking to himself some-**Invincible** what as follows: “Surely, **Arrogance**, after this complete humbling, the Chinese would never again try

to assert their superiority.” But an idea, if once received by a Chinaman, is more firmly embedded in his head than his teeth. “There is but one sun in the heavens, so there can be but one supreme ruler over all under

heaven" has always been the Celestial's theory regarding his Emperor, and it will be found to be at the root of a good deal of the trouble now. So actually within four months of this humbling Nanking Treaty we find the Emperor of China writing to a subordinate in these words: "Meet Pottinger [Sir Henry Pottinger, Her Majesty's sole Plenipotentiary, if you please!], and immediately explain to him that the Celestial Dynasty, in governing all foreigners without its pale, looks upon them with the same feeling of universal benevolence with

A Roland which she looks upon her **for an** own children." For once, **Oliver.** however, the Emperor got his answer in proper style. Sir Henry replied that "his Royal Mistress the Queen of England acknowledges no superior governor but God, and that the dignity, the power, and the universal benevolence of Her Majesty are known to be second to none on earth."

Excepting, however, for this spirited reply, the extraordinary policy of *laissez faire* seems to have soon resumed full swing on the part of England. The Lion went to sleep in just the same silly old style, until the horrible ill treatment of two British sailors, who had ventured into the city of Canton, once more caused it to suddenly wake up with a roar. The **Expedition** Governor of Hong Kong, **of 1847.** Sir John Davis, of his own accord got together 1,000 men, and on April 2nd, 1847, before the Chinese could realise what had happened, had stormed up the Canton River, seized all the forts, and spiked 879 guns, without the loss of a man; and lastly, when abreast of Canton City itself, sent in an ultimatum. Having

done all this, and proved himself so mighty in war, he, like so many of his predecessors, allowed himself to be fooled with a lot of empty promises, which left the British cause rather worse than before.

However, if nothing else came of it, it would be thought that such tangible proofs, so repeatedly administered, of the power of the white men from the far West would have caused the Chinese to be more careful, lest they should again provoke them to hostility. But when another king arose who knew

Anti- not Joseph, the same old **Foreign** anti-foreign element began **Revival.** to make itself felt in the same old rude way. From the time of the coming into power of the Emperor Hsien Fung (1849) every mandarin was degraded who had had any hand in the treaties with Great Britain. It was the more extraordinary that the Manchu Government should follow this line when it is borne in mind that China itself was now beginning to be torn with the terrible civil war known as the Taiping Rebellion. This rebellion, it will be remembered, lasted from 1850 to 1864, during which time 600 towns were destroyed and millions slaughtered.

It only serves to show that the intense hatred of "the foreign devil"

The has its root in the very deep- **Yellow** est fibres of the Chinaman's **Mystery.** nature. "The Chinaman," as one who lived in the country for a great many years remarked recently, "is not like an inhabitant of this earth at all. He is like a being from another planet." In everything he is so totally different; and when you have lived for years in the country, and have at last, by intense application, mastered his language, you realise

more and more how little you know of his unfathomable mind ; how ultra-extraordinary are his ways of looking at things.

You get some idea of this, it is true, and of the totally topsy-turvy nature **Chinese** of everything in the country, **Oddities.** within a very short time of landing in it. For instance, at dinner,

and shake your own hands. So in everything else the rule of reverse applies. A book begins at the end, must be read from top to bottom, and from right hand to left hand. In moonlight, too, our yellow enigma always carries a lantern ; but that, however, is not on account of the extra light, but in order to circumvent the devils.



CHINAMEN DINING WITH CHOPSTICKS.

Chopsticks look something like a long lead pencil cleft in two, one side being round, while the other is flat. They are both held in the same hand, and to Europeans the way the Chinese pick up with them articles of food like boiled rice, for which we require a spoon, savours of the marvellous.

instead of commencing with soup and fish and ending with fruit, the Chinaman begins with fruit and biscuits, winding up with fish and soup made out of birds' nests. If you pay a call on a Chinese gentleman, you ought to keep on your hat, and not take it off. Instead of shaking hands with your host, if you want to play the real Chinaman, you should close your fists

One feels rather sorry for the devils in China ; they seem to be considered

How the Chinese avoid Devils.

such awful fools. In Europe, whatever other attribute we ascribe to him whom school-boys call "the old gentleman," we certainly do not deny him his share of cuteness. But the Chinaman never doubts that he can effectually prevent the angels of His Satanic

Majesty from passing up a river into a city by hanging up matting under the arches of its bridges. He dwells in blissful certainty that they will not have the *nous* to fly over the bridge instead of through it.

To return, however, to the events which preceded our next war with **Anything** China. Although the **but the** Taiping Rebellion went from **Foreigner.** bad to worse, and although it was repeatedly made clear to the Manchu Government by various nations that, if only they would show themselves a little inclined to be friendly, they would have no difficulty in getting help to crush the rising, not one jot or tittle would they yield; though it seemed almost certain at one time that their dynasty would come to an end by the murder of all belonging to it.

China has been called the land of rebellions, but this Taiping Rebellion

The was on a truly colossal **Taiping** scale. By the way it ran **Rebellion.** like fire through the land, from province to province, it affords a pretty fair idea of the danger in the present Boxer movement, if not soon stopped with a firm hand. It was begun, or at any rate led, by one

Its Hung Hseu Tsuen. He was **Leader.** originally only a mere Cantonese peasant, who had come under Christian influence in Canton. On the strength of this he devised a sort of religion of his own, in which, needless to say, he was the central divinity. The political object of "the Heavenly Chief," as he called himself, was to restore the old Ming Dynasty. With this in view, he established himself in their ancient capital, Nanking. His armies swept nearly all over China, and it was at one time thought in England that, if they were suc-



A CHINESE WATCHMAN.

The watchman in China, besides his lantern to frighten off the devils, it will be observed carries a drum, which he beats at intervals. This he does not so much out of consideration for the burglars he is supposed to catch, but so that—brave guardian of the peace that he is—he may not get himself into any more unpleasant rows than he can help.

cessful, the whole country would perhaps embrace Christianity, and throw itself open to foreign trade. But we were reckoning without our host: a Chinaman is still a Chinaman, be he Ming or Manchu, be he on the

side of the Government or a rebel with a price on his head—he hates the foreigner. So a visit to the rebel headquarters, undertaken by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, Sir George Bonham, quickly proved to him that the Taiping Dynasty, besides being a mere bubble, was as utterly anti-foreign as the Manchu Government it desired to supplant.

As for the Manchus, some idea of their feelings towards the "outer barbarians" of the Western world, as they called all Europeans, may be **Renewed** gathered from the fact that **Insults.** they not only continued to ever more and more disregard the rights we had acquired under the various treaties, but Yeh, the Viceroy of Canton, would not even grant an



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

This old cartoon shows how, in 1860, France had her hands full. The gentleman in the middle who is fixing the Chinaman by his pigtail is saying, "Excuse me, my dear Emperor of China, I will attend to you immediately, but at present I am having a few words with His Excellency the Emperor of Morocco."

interview to Her Majesty's Commissioner, Sir John Bowring, in order to talk over the matter in a friendly, informal way.

This Viceroy Yeh was as fine an example of the high and mighty, dry Viceroy and crusted, above all things Yeh's thoroughly rude specimen Behaviour. of mandarinism one could wish to meet. When Sir John Bowring wrote proposing to introduce to him the new consul for Canton, Viceroy Yeh took no notice of the letter for a month, and then brusquely replied that "there was no precedent for granting his request." When representatives of nations treat each other in this fashion, war is only a question of time; and, generally speaking, the sooner it comes the better. This little incident occurred in the middle of June, 1854; but by the end of the year it so happened that Viceroy Yeh was forced to ask Sir John to protect his city from the Taipings, who had blockaded the river, beaten his fleet, and now threatened Canton itself. Sir John Bowring took up a fleet, and soon frightened away Yeh's Taiping

foes. But when pressed to grant an interview and to keep his promise that Canton City should be open to British residents, the ungrateful old wretch proved as intractable as ever.

So distinguished was he as a foe to foreigners that a tablet was erected to him at Canton. This beautiful specimen of Chinese sentiments recorded that the Cantonese were the only ones that had succeeded in "cutting barbarians in pieces," and finished up with the words: "Even our tender children are desirous to devour their flesh and sleep upon their skins!"

With such a man at the head of affairs in Canton, where all international business was then brewing again. be only a question of time. Throughout the summer of 1856 the same kind of inflammatory placards and handbills, which have been such a marked feature of the period immediately preceding this last awful outbreak at Peking, were freely circulated.



CHAPTER VI.

The War of 1856-60.

Seizure of the *Arrow*—Capture of the Bogue Forts—Treacherous Retaliation—Assassination and Poison—French Assistance—Capture of Yeh—Capture and Administration of Canton—Capture of Taku Forts—A Futile Treaty—A British Reverse—Negotiations again—The War of 1860—Capture of Peking—Chinaman's Account of Destruction of Summer Palace—"Saving Face"—Convention of Peking.

*"Now this is the faith that the white men hold
When they build them homes afar:
Freedom for ourselves and freedom for our sons—
And failing freedom, War."*

RUDYARD KIPLING.



ADMIRAL SIR M. SEYMOUR, G.C.B.

He commanded the Allied British and French Fleets at the first capture of the Taku Forts, May 20, 1858. He was an uncle of Sir E. H. Seymour, now Commander-in-Chief in China, and his nephew served under him as a midshipman in his flagship.

WHAT actually set flame to the powder now ready for explosion was the abominable action of the "Arrow" the mandarins in suddenly arresting the whole of the Chinese crew of a small British coast-

ing vessel called the *Arrow*. On a charge of being "in collusion with barbarians," they dragged them in chains to Canton, and would not give them back. It was a deliberate insult to the British flag. A formal apology was demanded from Yeh, but it was refused. So, on October 23rd, 1856, commenced what was known as "*The Arrow War*."

Of course, in our usual happy-go-lucky style, we were unprepared. We had only a handful of men on the spot; but, notwithstanding this, Admiral Seymour, after smashing up some Chinese forts, succeeded in bombarding old Yeh's official residence. Yeh,

whatever his faults, had some good stuff in him. He simply moved farther into the city, and defied the Admiral to do his worst. He was cute enough to know that the place could not be captured without more men.



THE ALLIED FLEETS IN TALIEUNWAN BAY IN 1860.

This interesting photograph of our war of forty years ago shows the very different type of battleship then in use. It will be noted that all the vessels have masts and yards such as are now to be found on sailing ships only. Talienwan Bay, which is near Port Arthur, now belongs to Russia.

The Admiral knew it too, so went through the same old monotonous **Bogue** process of bombarding and **Forts again** dismantling the **Bogue captured**. Forts; and then, as there was no more to be done, returned to Hong Kong to wait reinforcements.

It was a war with a comic side, this. Now it was time for the villain of the **Assassina-** piece to come upon the **tion.** scene. Yeh's idea of playing his part was to get placards secretly posted in Hong Kong and Canton, offering 100 taels to anyone assassinating an Englishman. Even this generosity did not meet with its own reward to any appreciable extent; though it must be said for the Chinamen in Hong Kong that it was not for any want of trying.

There was, however, one horribly alarming incident. On January 6th, **Poison.** 1857, the cry went out through all Hong Kong, "We are poisoned! There is poison in the bread!" Though the poison was arsenic, strangely enough no one died of it—at any rate, not immediately. No less than 400 people, however, suffered awful agony from its effects. This incident throws a lurid light on the treacherous character of the foe with whom we have to deal.

At last English troops arrived, and war recommenced in good earnest.

French The French, to avenge the **Assistance.** murder of one of their missionaries, joined in with us. After the usual Chinese delays for negotiations, the bombardment of Canton was begun on December 28th, 1857, by 5,000 English and 1,000 French troops.

Old Yeh, who had always so persistently refused to meet "foreign **Capture** devils" of any nationality, **of Yeh.** was introduced to them at **in a way** more forcible than polite.

The introduction took place on the top of a wall (where he was run down while attempting to escape from the blue-jackets of H.M.S. *Sanspareil*), and was attended with some interesting features. It is recorded that Sir Astley Cooper Key held him whilst the coxswain of Commodore Elliot "twisted the august tail of the Imperial Commissioner round his fist." Yeh was deported to Calcutta, where he died. His rowdy city, Canton, which had been the scene of so many disturbances with the British, was placed under the control of the Allied Powers, by whom it was splendidly governed for some years.

Why on earth it was ever given back to the Chinese people, to be again **A Lesson** a source of annoyance, it is **from** hard to say. But the ease **History.** with which it was controlled would seem to show that, if China has to be broken up and divided amongst the nations, it may after all be not so very difficult for comparatively small bands of Europeans to keep its immense hordes in check.

Affairs in the south of China having been thus settled, Lord Elgin, the **Capture of** British Plenipotentiary, pro- **Taku** ceeded with the fleet to **Forts.** the north, as the Chinese Government had treated our demands with their usual supreme contempt. On May 20th, 1858, Lord Elgin demonstrated to the Chinese the inadvisability of displaying contempt when a European armed force is at the door. On that day the Allies stormed and took the Taku Forts that guard the entrance of the Pei-ho River, the waterway which leads to Tientsin, and runs within thirteen miles of Peking itself.

With ease Tientsin was next occu-



THE TAKU FORTS, DESTROYED BY ADMIRAL SEYMOUR, MAY 20TH, 1858.
The forts at the mouth of the Peiho bay, now for the third time been captured by British bravery. Although the bulk of the armament is obsolete, the forts mounted a dozen 5-inch breech-loaders, and some six or seven large calibre Krupp guns.



BOMBARDMENT OF NANKING AND DESTRUCTION OF BATTERIES, NOVEMBER 20TH. 1843.

pied; and then—
with the approach

**A Futile to Peking
Treaty.** at his

mercy—instead of presenting his demands, backed by the thunder of his guns, at the capital itself, Lord Elgin, to the disgust of his troops, allowed himself to be fooled into making an unsatisfactory treaty. Next, as if to show how completely the strong man in war may prove a very child in the arts of diplomacy, he actually returned with his forces to Shanghai without even waiting for the Treaty of Tientsin to be ratified. Doubtless he imagined—poor, innocent man!—that the treaty having been signed by gorgeously-dressed, smooth-spoken officials of high degree, its ratification was but a merely formal matter. He had yet to have it brought home to him that,

"For ways that are dark,
And for tricks that are vain,
The heathen Chinese is peculiar,"—

as Bret Harte puts it so pithily. Of course, instead of ratifying the treaty, now that the troops were safely away, the Chinese commenced to try and bargain themselves out of its provisions. In one way it was a blessing in disguise that they did so; for actually one of the most important



GENERAL SIR JAMES HOPE GRANT,
Commander-in-Chief of English forces, Chinese War, 1858-60.

points we had fought for had been omitted altogether—that of the permanent representation of Europe in Peking itself.

When the war was resumed next year, in consequence of the Chinese

A British haggling, an untoward event **Reverse.** befell the British arms. In trying to again capture the Taku Forts, our fleet was repulsed, partly in consequence of the heavy swell then prevailing. Our gunboats rocked so unmercifully that they lay like logs under the fire of the forts, while at the same time unable to send in a correctly aimed shot in reply.

After this, more negotiations—resumed and conducted, of course, in the

interminable fashion of the Chinese. They dragged on till April 8th, 1860, **Negotiations again.** when the Government of His Celestial Majesty had the impudence to calmly inform the Allies they had never even meant to carry out the Tientsin Treaty.

The gauntlet was again down in earnest now. A fresh army was got **The War** out, and another attack was **of 1860.** made on the Taku Forts. This time they were stormed with prodigious slaughter. The troops would not be denied, though they had to surmount a terrible stockade, which caused them heavy loss. Again Tientsin was occupied. This time the haughty Manchu Government was brought to its knees.

Meanwhile, however, a dastardly outrage had been committed by the Chinese. As usual, they had tried to negotiate peace. The late Lord Loch, then private secretary to Lord Elgin, and Mr. (afterwards Sir) Harry Parkes were invited by the Chinese to proceed direct to Peking. Directly they were in the power of the Chinese, though under flag of truce, they were seized and thrown into a prison. Not only did they have iron collars round their necks fastened to heavy chains on their ankles, but their elbows were pinioned to beams in the ceiling. On one occasion the chain was so tightened that for a whole night poor young Loch was suspended by the neck so that his feet scarcely touched the ground. He nearly died from suffocation. Finally both young men were sentenced to be executed. The negotiations for their release were only concluded ten minutes before the time fixed for execution.

Peking, the great city which the Chinese fondly believed so invulnerable,

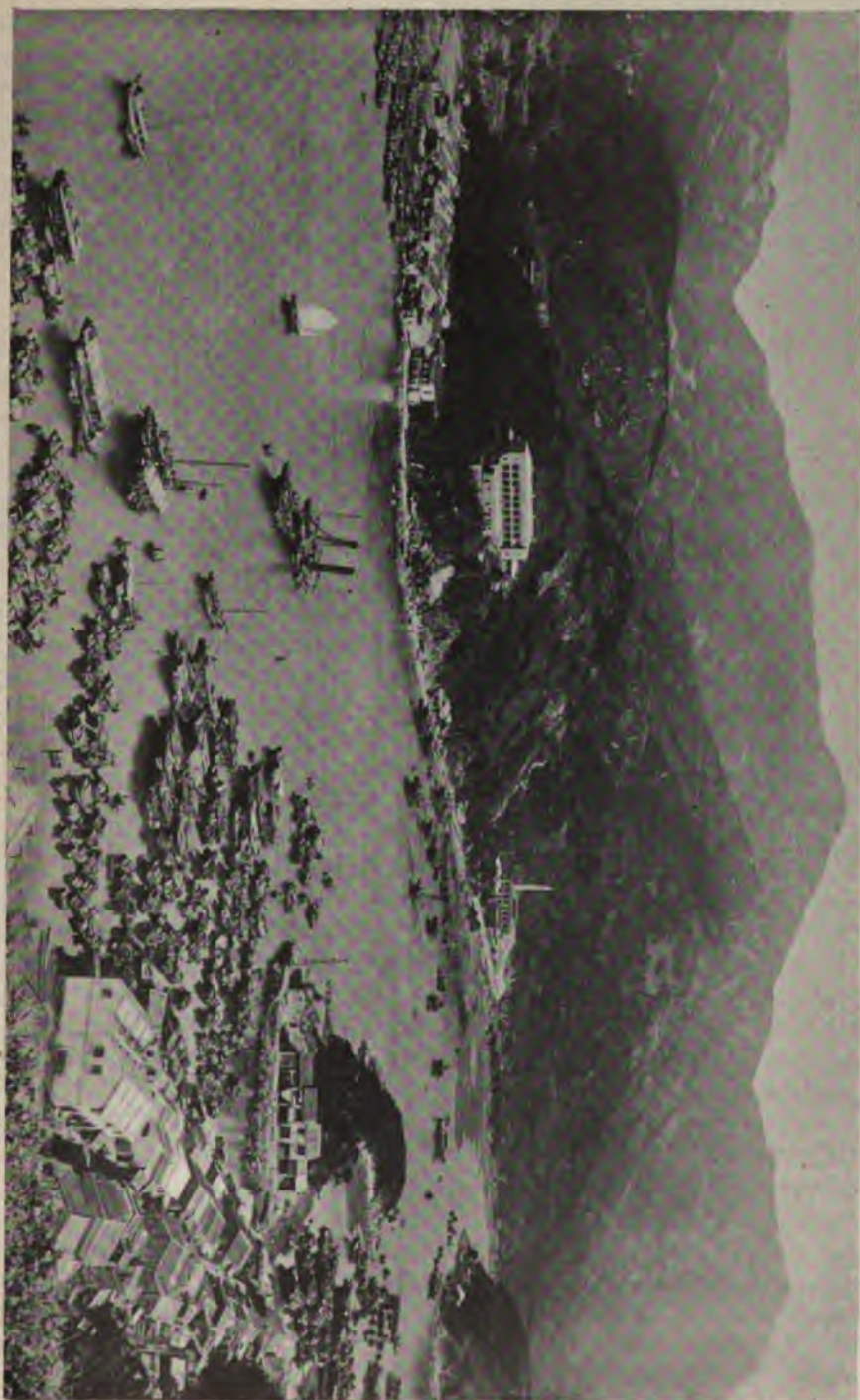
was taken on October 30th, 1860; and, under the hope that a lesson would be **Capture of** taught to the whole empire **Peking.** for ever, the Emperor's Summer Palace was burned to the ground.

Oh, infatuated hope! The ignorant people of China's vast empire believe

The something far different. A **Chinaman** Peking official has a lie **as a Liar.** waiting ready-made at the tip of his tongue to explain away any and every little awkward circumstance. He certainly deceives his neighbour, and he tells his lies with such an artistic abandon of truth that no one more firmly believes them at last than himself. "The Summer Palace! Oh dear no, that was not burnt down by the English and French. His Celestial Majesty the Emperor found the place did not suit him, so moved out, and outlaws got into the place and destroyed it! Yes, it was a pity in some ways, but it did not matter much, as the Emperor had ceased to care for it!" As another instance of official lying, when the war was over with Japan, and at last her triumphant soldiers had left the country, it was firmly believed throughout China that, "when the Emperor sent his legions against them, the dwarfs from over the sea ran away at once."

But it might be asked, "How about all the thousands of Chinese soldiers who

"Saving took part in the war; surely **Face."** they would tell a different tale?" No, not in China. The art of "saving face," as it is called, is brought to nearly as much perfection as that of "telling what 'tisn't." Every cowardly warrior who fled at first sight of the well-drilled ranks of Japan went home with circumstantially minute details of the wonderful prowess exhibited by



HONG KONG HARBOUR.

Hong Kong, the British naval base in China, is a small island situated at the mouth of the Canton River. The harbour is as good as its surroundings are beautiful.

himself and the regiment to which he belonged.

The immediate effect of the burning of the Summer Palace and the capture of Peking was, however, satisfaction. The Government were only too thankful to sign a new and important convention, known as

the Convention of Peking (October 24th, 1860). This not only ratified the Treaty of Tientsin, but for the first time arranged for the permanent representation of the Powers of Europe in Peking itself; to which the conduct of international affairs was henceforward transferred from Canton.

CHAPTER VII.

From 1860 to the Accession of the Present Emperor.

Founding of the Tsung-li Yamen—Its Extraordinary Methods—A Bit of Comic Opera—Another Scene in the Play—Constitution and Status of the Tsung-li Yamen—Return of the Old Arrogance—End of the Taiping Rebellion—Cause of Chinese Rebellions—Death of Emperor Hsien Fung—The Empress's *Coup*—The Reign of Tung Chih—Renewal of the Regency—Death of Tung Chih.

"Words were given to us to conceal our thoughts."

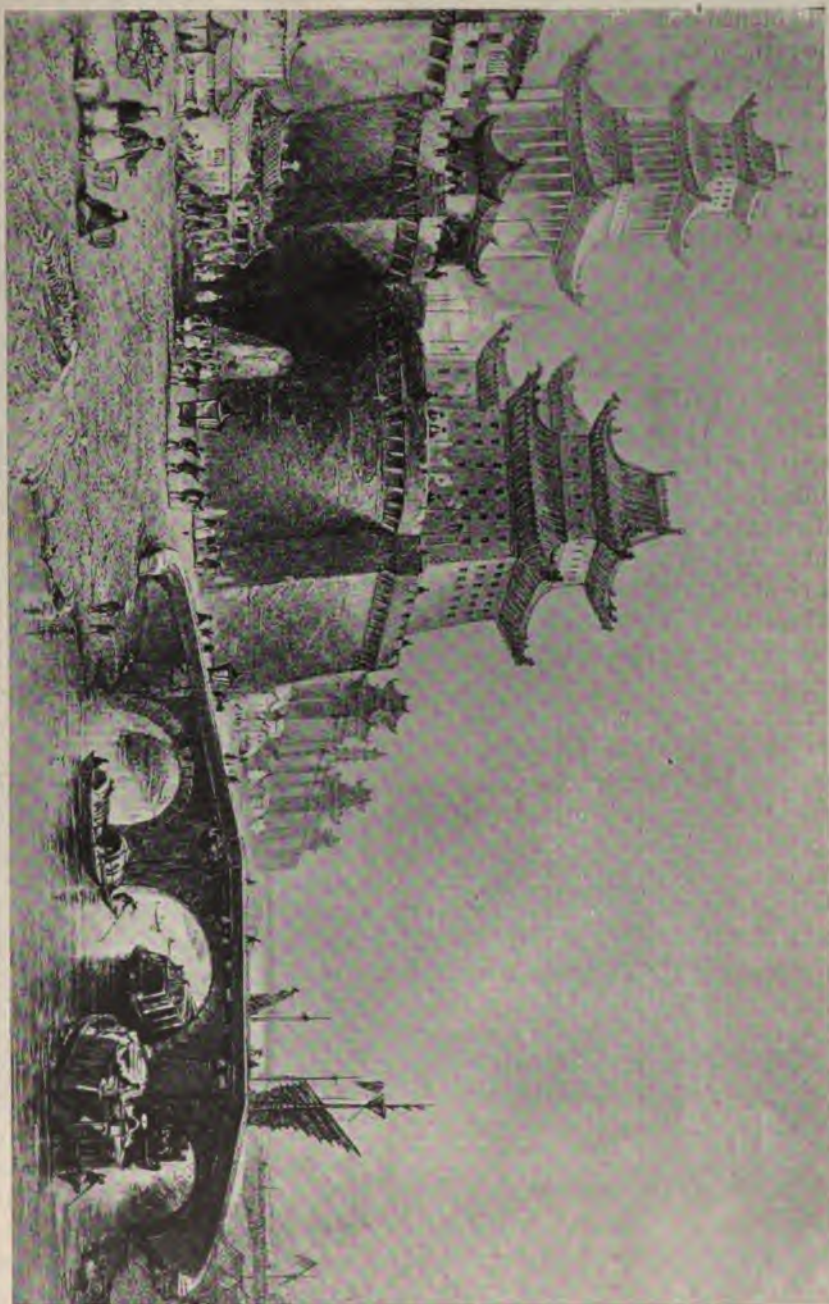
IT was under the Convention of Peking that the Tsung-li Yamen—the equivalent, more or less, of our Foreign Office—was created.

To call it an equivalent of our Foreign Office is, however, a libel on the latter; a burlesque of it is the only term which is at all fitting. The Tsung-li Yamen. Yamen and its methods of

doing business seem as if they had stepped straight out of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas. Its grand idea of doing business is to prevent it altogether. As Mr. A. R. Colquhoun so cleverly puts it in his "China in Transformation," "it serves merely as the cold water which extinguishes the hot irons thrust into it by the ardour of the foreign agents." For the purpose of doing nothing at all and preventing anyone else from doing anything, it is probably the most successful body that was ever brought together. A fresh ambassador comes

out from home, full of energy, full of confidence, full of enthusiasm. He at any rate is not going to allow the claims of his country to be set aside; it is incomprehensible why his predecessors have got through so little; but one way or another he is going to force matters along. But somehow the surroundings of Peking gradually curb his boundless energy. The air-cushion-like resistance of the Tsung-li Yamen—always apparently yielding, and always somehow returning to its old position—deadens or kills his high hopes. Finally he drifts with the stream of those around him, no better than the men he succeeded.

This is the sort of thing that breaks the heart of the diplomat-come-lately. He expounds to the potent, grave, and reverend signors sitting there how the sacred obligations of their Government are being continually violated, and goes on to point out how much better



THE WESTERN GATE, PEKING.

Peking, with its wonderful walls, presents a sight the equal of which is not to be found in the whole world. These walls run for twenty-one miles round China's vast capital. In some parts they are as much as fifty feet high, and their breadth is so great as to be nearly equal to the height. There are in all sixteen gates. Each of these gates has defence towers, from which grim cannon peep out. They are, however, only painted wood. The war god Kuan-ti is supposed to be thus deceived into thinking in what a splendid state of defence his children are keeping the city.

it would be if the Chinese would only model their ideas on those of his own enlightened country. "Yes, yes!" say the mandarins; "we quite understand. All that you say is most interesting. We shall give your most honourable words our careful attention. What a pity that other representatives of your great and glorious country have not possessed the happy art of bringing things so clearly before us! Is there any other grievance or any other advice you would like to place before our poor and dishonourable selves?" So our diplomat, charmed with their courtesy and attention, goes on to expatiate at even greater length. He willingly answers long letters for further information, and has interviews without end. At last everything is evidently all right. He goes down to draw up and settle a final agreement. Then he is staggered to meet with the enquiry, delivered with the most child-like absence of guile, "Will the most high and honourable Lord explain to his poor and humble servants what it is he wants?" It is heart-breaking. Dealing with the Tsung-li Yamen is like one of those terrible recurring decimal sums of our school days; after enormous labour one always comes back to the same point from which one started.

A most delightful picture of the doings of this hopeless comic-opera

Another Yamen was given by a **Scene in** correspondent of the *Times* **the Play.** in 1884:—

"They commence by the delicate *plaisanterie* of offering refreshments which they know their visitor will not touch, and the attendants know the art of killing time by bringing in the repast, dish by dish, with infinite fuss and ceremony. The visitor sits mean-

while, more or less patiently, on a hard seat, in a cheerless room, grimy with venerable dirt, the north wind moaning through the crevices. At last, when the melon-seeds and sugar-plums have been distributed in saucers all over the only table on which the foreigner would have liked to spread his papers, business is supposed to commence, half an hour having been happily consumed in arranging sweetmeats. 'And now,' observes the visitor, 'what is your answer about the robbery of merchandise belonging to Mr. Smith at Nam-kwei, and the beating of his servants for refusing to pay the illegal extortions of the officials?' One of their rules is that no one shall speak first. So they take sidelong glances at each other and keep silence, until one, bolder than the rest, opens his mouth, as much to the surprise as relief of his comrades, who watch the reckless man in the hope that he will drop something which may serve hereafter to put a sting into some surreptitious charge against him. What he does say is, 'Take some of these walnuts; they come from the prefecture of Long-way, which is celebrated for the excellence of its fruit.' Then follows a discussion on the merits of walnuts. When they do speak, they all speak at once, and, like Mr. Puff's friends, their unanimity is something wonderful, and their courage rises to heroism. What they do say can, of course, be neither understood nor answered; so much the better, since time has been killed, with the arrow of controversy still in the quiver. The Foreign Minister's lips begin to grow pale, and other signs of exhaustion warn the courageous ones that it is time to shout louder, if haply they may stun their auditor with their noise."

From 1860 to the Accession of the Present Emperor 49

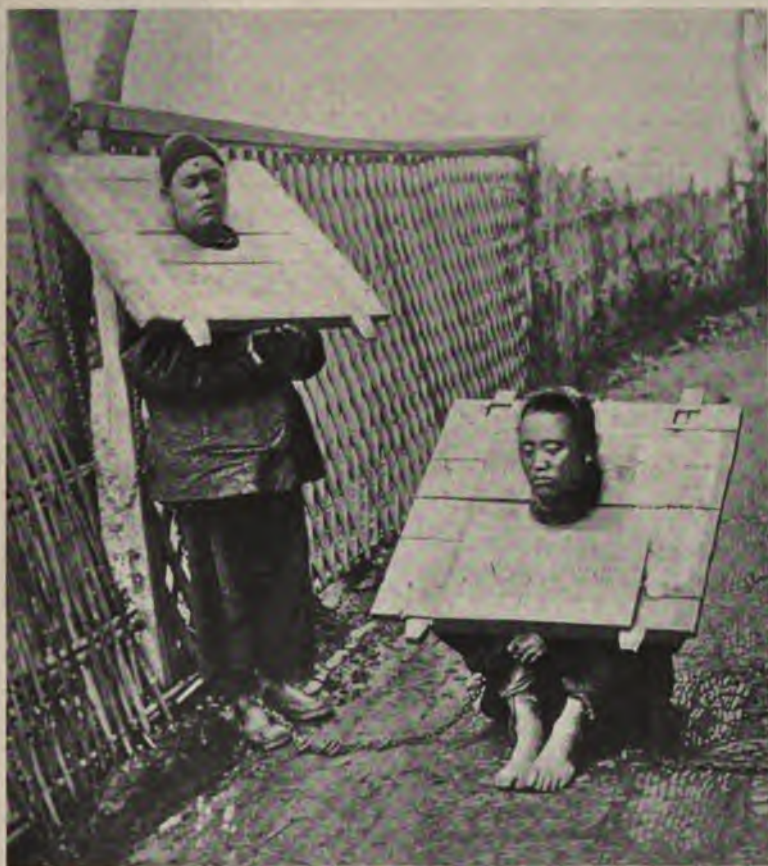
The Tsung-li Yamen, as at first constituted in January, 1861, consisted of three ministers; but its numbers have been gradually increased until there are now eight, three of them being Manchus and five Chinese. It is evident that from the very first it

Constitution and Status of the Yamen.

of State departments known as the Red Book.

With the creation of the Tsung-li Yamen, and the right of foreign ambassadors to reside in the Old Peking conceded at last, it was hoped that the Chinese Government, under the terrible memo-

Return of the Old Arrogance.



CHINESE PRISONERS WEARING CANGUES.

Cangues are the prototype of the old English village stocks. Prisoners wearing these terrible wooden collars may be seen in almost any Chinese city. Cangues such as these, attached to heavy chains on their ankles, were fastened on the necks of the late Lord Loch and Sir Harry Parkes when they went, by invitation of the Chinese, under a flag of truce to arrange terms of peace in 1860.

was never intended to be anything more than a brake on enthusiastic diplomats, as it never till recently had any shadow of status or real authority. It was only in 1890 that it first figured in the record

ries of the capture of the capital and the burning of the Summer Palace, would see the error of their ways and abandon their insane treatment of foreigners. At first certainly things

seemed much better; but as the memories of their humiliation have grown dimmer and dimmer, so has the old arrogant insolence grown. Doors of places like the Temple of Heaven in Peking, where at first any visitor could enter, have of late years been rudely banged in the Englishman's face. This treatment is typical also of the utter isolation and state of boycott in which even ambassadors have for a long time been forced to live.

Even on no other grounds such treatment was peculiarly ungrateful. It is

End of very probable that, had it
Taiping not been for the help of the
Rebellion. Allies against the Taiping revolutionists, the Mauchu Government would have been overthrown altogether. For two years they received assistance from us, until, on July 19th, 1864, under our famous General Gordon, Nanking was captured and the spurious dynasty of Hung Hseu Tsuen was brought to an end. His dynasty had lasted fourteen years, and cost the lives of *twenty million* people.

China has been called the classic ground of revolutions. The number
The Cause of rebellions that have oc-
of Chinese curred can indeed scarcely
Rebellions. be counted; even in the last forty years there have been very many important ones, in which whole provinces have been almost depopulated. Their cause is not far to seek in a country where a universal system of "squeeze" is in practice. Occasionally a mandarin is more than usually grasping. At last the worm turns. The populace break loose and haul him out of his sedan-chair by the heels. They even pull off his official boots, which is almost a greater indignity than throwing him into the nearest ditch, as they have been also known to do when

very excited.

So starts a revolution, which the authorities then put down by either massacring the community outright, or, if they are too powerful, tempting neighbourly cupidity with heavy bribes to surrender the ring-

leaders—a dodge which seldom fails with the venial yellow man.

Previous to the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion an important event had occurred in the history of China—the death of the Emperor Hsien Fung, which took place in August, 1861.

**Death of
Emperor
Hsien
Fung.**

Hsien Fung had always been noted for his rootedly anti-European prejudices; so it was hoped that brighter days were in store. Little did anyone realise what a legacy he had left to the world in the person of the Empress-Dowager, the terrible woman who has for so many years been the mainspring of our troubles in China. No sooner

The was the Emperor dead than
Empress's she came to the front at
Coup. once. The Emperor's son, Tung Chih, was but a tiny child; so the Empress-Dowager and his mother—who, by the way, was another, but less important, wife of the Emperor—made a bold stroke. They seized the reins of government and appointed themselves Regents. In this they



From "Intimate China," by Mrs. Archibald Little.

THE EMPEROR AT THE AGE OF FOUR.

had the assistance of one of the late Emperor's brothers, Prince Kung, whom they made Prime Minister.

They held the regency till 1873, when Tung Chih came of age. He

The Reign of Tung Chih. then got married; so for a time his two enterprising mothers had to—at any rate

apparently—retire into the shade in favour of the young Empress. Later on, however, Tung Chih, who had always been addicted to fast living, began to show signs that the pace he was going was bringing him very near to an untimely end.

The well-known Chinese reverence for parents, even in ordinary families, causes young married couples to suffer

from acute attacks of "mother-in-law"; but the ailment seems to be

Renewal of the Regency. intensified ten times over within the sacred precincts of the Forbidden City in

Peking. So the poor young wife was completely ignored in an Imperial Decree which was issued, when the Emperor grew worse, asking the two scheming Empresses to resume their former place at the head of affairs—

Death of Tung Chih. which, as they had been the prompters of the Decree, they of course did. Not long afterwards (1875) the Emperor Tung Chih died, leaving a widow expecting to become a mother, but otherwise with no children.



PLOUGHING.

A primitive implement not unlike those in use in Palestine. It makes a furrow only four inches deep, but with its aid splendid crops are raised. The Emperor ploughs a furrow every year at the great annual Festival of Husbandry.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Empress-Dowager and the Emperor.

How the Present Emperor came to be chosen—Suicide (!) of the Young Empress—Dark Hints and Rumours—The Empress Tsu Hsi—An Imperial Edict—The Dowager's Full Name—Her Former Position and Origin—Painter and Poetess—The Unfortunate Young Emperor—Too Sacred to be seen—The Emperor as High Priest—His Appearance—His Temptations—Their Object—The Emperor as Reformer—The Reformer Kang Yu Wei—What the Tsung-li Yamen thought of Reform—Kang Yu Wei's Suggestions—Emperor's Lack of Power—His Attempt at Educational Reform—Competitive Examinations at their Worst—Reforming too Fast—Deposition of the Emperor—Flight of Kang—Empress's Bloody Revenge—Imprisonment of Emperor—Reversal of Attempts at Reform—Choice of an Heir to the Throne—An Amusing Imperial Decree.

*"Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe."*

MACBETH.

THE two Empresses, being in power at the death of Tung Chih, meant to stay there at all hazards. **How the Present Emperor came to be chosen.** They dreaded, however, the power that would accrue to the young Empress-Widow, Ah-Lu-Ta, if they waited for her child to be born, as, if a male, he would of course be the Emperor; so they determined to choose someone else. They then looked about for the youngest relative they could find, in order to thus obtain the longest possible period of power for themselves as Regents. Their choice fell on a nephew of the Empress-Mother (whose sister had married one of the late Emperor's brothers), a child of four years old, named Tsaitien, who was forthwith appointed Emperor, with the new name of Kwang Hsu (Glorious Continuity).

By way of making quite sure that nothing should go wrong with their pretty little scheme, they **Suicide of the Young Empress.** politely pointed out to the Empress Ah-Lu-Ta what a number of difficulties would be removed if it so happened that she committed suicide! There are nasty,

slandrous folk who say that they helped towards the carrying out of their hints; but such people would take anyone's character away. *Of course* she died by her own hand, which in China is considered rather a nice thing for a widow to do. Then, again, there are others who would detract from the character of the Empress-Dowager, Tsu Hsi, by saying that she caused the death of her coadjutor, the other Empress, so as to have the whole field to herself. Whereas, is it not well known that the two ladies had a squabble over how the little Emperor should be brought up, and that in consequence one died (as was officially announced, so there can be no mistake) of "pent-up anger in the heart"? Poor Empress-

Dark Hints and Rumours. Dowager! it is astonishing how people will find fault with the least thing done by those in high places. They even say that, besides the little affairs mentioned, if her late husband, the Emperor Hsien Fung, could be given speech again, he could tell some curious tales as to the cause of her becoming a widow! They hint, too, that something more



THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER OF CHINA.

than mere wild dissipation was responsible for the death of his son Tung Chih.

That the present Emperor, Kwang Hsu, the question of whose up-bringing

An caused the other Empress **Imperial** to die of "pent-up anger **Edict.** in the heart," thinks well of this famous and terrible Empress-Dowager, Tsu Hsi—or at any rate deems it safer to pretend he does—may be gathered from the following Imperial Edict published in the *Peking Gazette* in reference to her sixtieth birthday: "The superlative goodness of the Most August Empress-Dowager is brightly manifest, and Her comprehensive foresight benefits the whole race. By ceaseless diligence within Her Palace She secures the peace of the entire realm. Since Our accession to the Throne We have in respectful attendance constantly received Her admirable instructions. With great gladness We perceive Her Gracious Majesty in robust health and cheerful spirits. In the year 1894 Her Majesty will happily attain the illustrious age of sixty years, and it will be Our duty, at the head of the officials and people of the whole Empire, to testify our delight and to pray for blessings."

As a further mark of attention the Emperor has added to the name of

The the Empress-Dowager two **Empress's** more syllables to her full **Full** title. Her shadow, there- **Name.** fore, does not indeed grow less. Her full name is only second in terror to the lady herself. It is as follows:—

"Tsu-hsi-tuan-yu-kang-i-chao-yu-cheng-shou-kung-chin-hsien-chung-hsi."

That this female "king-maker" presents a remarkable personality will

be readily admitted; in fact, it would not be too much to say that she is

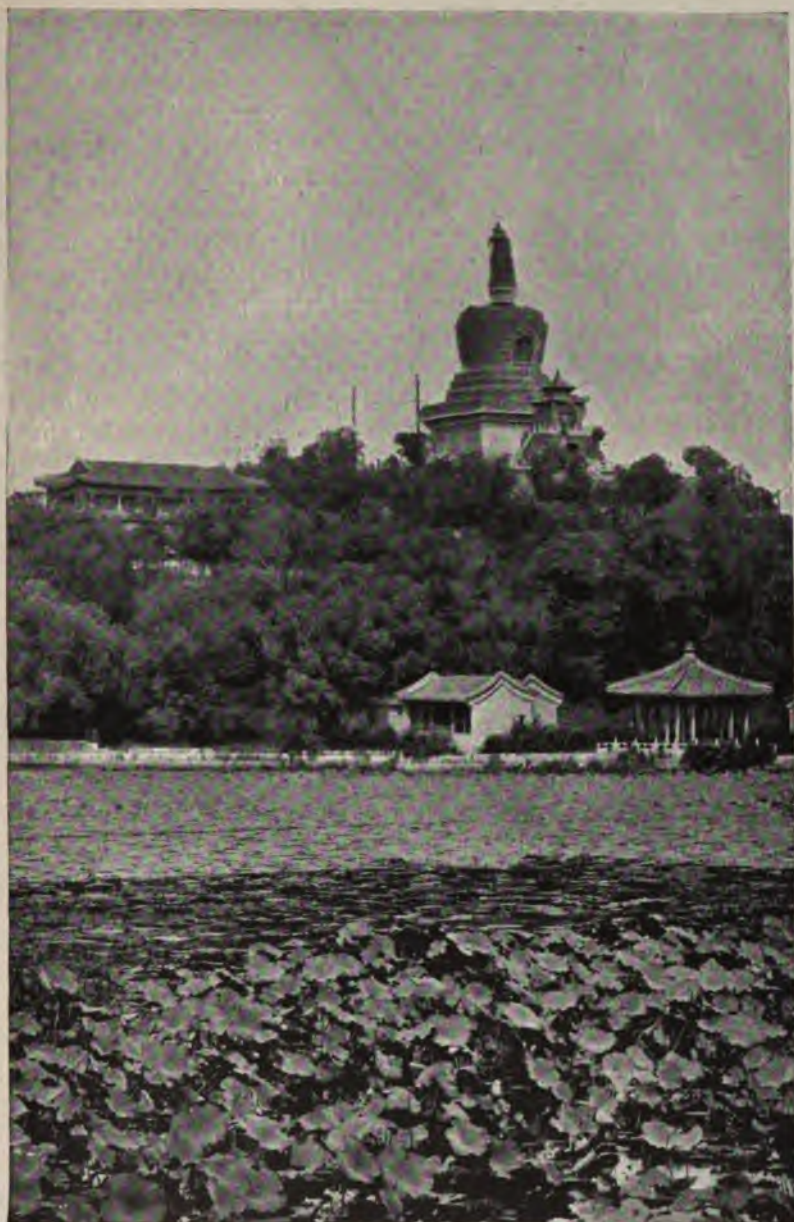
Her perhaps the most remarkable **Former** woman now living. Most **Position** extraordinary of all is the **and Origin.** fact that she is not—or rather ought not to be—Empress-Dowager; for she was not the wife of the Emperor Hsien Fung, but only his concubine. It is by no means certain, too, that she is even a woman of good birth. In fact, not to put too fine a point on it, some say she was born a slave. Strange, indeed, that in a country like China, where everything is regulated by cast-iron custom, such an one should have been able to climb to the throne, and wield power over the head of the Emperor himself. That she is a woman of no ordinary talent every- **Painter** one admits. She is a **and** brilliant artist, for instance; **Poetess.** and when she received the Embassy ladies two years ago, presented each one with a beautiful picture painted by her own hand. Whether or not a tithe of the awful things hinted against her be true, it is certain that she is no mean poet. But

"When the enterprising burglar's not a-burgling,

And the cut-throat's not engaged in crime,
He loves to hear the little brook a-gurgling,"

etc.; so we must suppose that her gentle and tender thoughts come in the intervals of other business.

The poor young Emperor Kwang Hsu, of course, is, and always has been, quite under—"petti- **The Un-** coat government," I was **fortunate** going to say, only that in **Young** China it is considered indecent and unwomanly for a lady to wear anything but trousers! Overshadowed by such an ogress, no wonder that all accounts agree in speaking



From "Intimate China," by Mrs. Archibald Little.

LOTUS POND AND DAGONA IN EMPEROR'S GARDEN.

of him as being weighed down with melancholy. Melancholy, indeed, is evidently the characteristic which has impressed everyone who has seen him more than anything else. Sad it is to

think of this lord of countless millions, whose power is supposed to be so absolute, and whose wealth no man can know, being denied the happiness that is within the reach of the meanest of

his subjects. Everyone speaks well of him—that is to say, every one of the very few who have been allowed into the sacred Imperial Capital. He is probably weighed down by the feeling of the immensity of his responsibilities, by the knowledge that his country is drifting ever more and more rapidly on to the breakers ahead, and that he, poor mortal, is so cramped in by the swaddling-clothes of iron-bound Court etiquette and the supposed sanctity of his person, that, in place of being a living, moving force, he is but an empty name.

How could a man play a man's part, and succeed in doing anything for his **Too Sacred** country, however desperately he wished it, when his person is shrouded from the gaze of his subjects? The Emperor of China is, and always will be, the "Prisoner of China." On the rare occasions when he leaves his palace in the Forbidden City, which is inside the Imperial City, which again is within the Tartar City of Peking—when the Emperor does go out, no man must gaze on his face. Every street is swept clear of the booths and stalls which are such a feature of the thoroughfares of Peking, even the very houses must be barricaded or closed with mats, so that none should see his sacred person, as he is borne swiftly by in a sedan-chair. It is hard to believe, however, that when this male Lady Godiva goes by there are no "Peeping Toms" gazing through crack and crevice.

It was not till 1889 that Kwang Hsu assumed the reins of government.

The Emperor How much power he has ever really held it is hard to say, owing to the overshadowing influence of his terrible aunt, the Empress Tsu Hsi.

Even without her it does not seem to be the most inviting of occupations to be Emperor of China. Besides the endless ceremonial of Court life, he is, besides Supreme Ruler, the Great High Priest of his people. As such it is expected of him that he should often pass the night in prayer and fasting. It is for him to pour libations on behalf of his people before the sacred tablets, and to pray for the harvest with the usual endless ceremonies at Peking's Temple of Heaven. When the poor wretch gets any sleep it is hard to say, for immemorial cast-iron custom prescribes that he must receive his ministers at the unearthly hour of 3 a.m. In the same way at the summer and winter solstice, when in his capacity of High Priest he has to make sacrifices and burnt offerings for his people, the time chosen is two hours before sunrise. To give an account of the ceremonies through which he has to go would fill a large chapter in itself.

Is it wonderful, then, that he looks so pale and sad? When he gave an **His Ap-** audience to the Diplomatic **pearance.** Corps in 1891, one of those who were there wrote the following account of him: "Although his features are essentially Chinese, or rather Manchu, they wear a particular air of personal distinction. Rather pale and dark, with a well-shaped forehead, long, black, arched eyebrows, large, mournful, dark eyes, a sensitive mouth, and an unusually long chin, the young Emperor, together with an air of great gentleness and intelligence, wore an expression of melancholy, due, naturally enough, to the deprivation of nearly all the pleasures of his age and to the strict life which the hard and complicated duties of his high position force him to lead."



TEMPLE OF HEAVEN, PEKING, WHERE THE EMPEROR GOES TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR THE HARVEST.

No European is now allowed to go over this wonderful place, which stands in grounds that are three miles in circumference. Here the Emperor, in his capacity of High Priest, makes sacrifices and burnt offerings for his people.

That the young Emperor—he is only twenty-nine now—is surrounded by every temptation which the Empress-Dowager has artfully

placed in his way, he has led the life almost of an anchorite. It is openly stated that she has on all occasions tried to lure him into the temptations of wine and gambling, besides surrounding him with concubines according to the Imperial custom.

By these means she calculated on being able to retain the real govern-

Their ment in her own hands;
Object. but the Emperor, whom all classes in China agree in praising as a good man, avoided her lures, and at one time astonished the world by placing himself at the head of the Reform Party in China—the party which would adopt Western methods and purge the Government of the old corrupt mandarin system.

Being a young man and an Emperor, whose will was supposed to be law, he

The seems to have imagined that
Emperor as he had but to say the word
Reformer. and everything would come right as he had ordered. But he had to reckon with the wily Empress-Dowager, backed by all the officials of State, whose interest it was to keep up the old corrupt methods.

At first all seemed to go well. He called to his councils the celebrated

The Kang Yu Wei, who is a
Reformer most wonderfully enlight-
Kang Yu ened Chinaman, possessed
Wei. of the highest ideals—too

high, alas! to fit on to the existing state of affairs in China: a man of brilliant literary attainments; but probably, like other literary men, not over-practical, nor sufficiently careful in what he said. The young monarch sent for him, and asked his advice on many points; but the reforms he recommended seem to have been of so sweeping a nature that it is hardly to be wondered at that they failed

with so conservative a people as the Chinese. The Emperor, however, was pleased with his suggestions, and desired him to hold a conference with the Tsung-li Yamen, and lay his ideas before them.

The reception he met with was thoroughly typical of the doings of

What the that famous "Board of
Tsung-li Delay," and can be fairly
Yamen well imagined from the de-
thought of scription we have already
Reform. given of their peculiar

methods of procedure. The remark of the Viceroy Jung Lu, "Why should we change the manners and customs of our ancestors?" was, however, the refrain of their tune from start to finish. So, again, when his back was turned, and they in their turn had an interview with the Emperor, they were not slow to express themselves freely. "He is talking nonsense; he speaks about changing the ways of our ancestors"—such was the final and, to the average Chinese mind, unanswerable argument with which they clinched their remarks.

The Emperor, however, fully sympathised with Kang Yu Wei. His

Kang Yu remarks to his monarch on
Wei's the occasion of one of their
Sugges- interviews are well worth
tions. quoting, as an illustration of

the fact that there are intelligent Chinamen who take a broad-minded view of the urgent need for reform in their country. The account is taken from an interview with Kang Yu Wei by the *China Mail*:—

"You, the Emperor, I would ask you to remove yourself from the seclusion in which you live. Come boldly forward, and employ young and intelligent officials. Your present Government is just like a building with

a leaky roof—the joists are rotten, and have been eaten by white ants. It is absolutely dangerous to remain longer in the building. Not only must you take off the roof, but you must take down the whole building, and even raze the foundations. How could you expect your present old ministers to reform? They have never had any Western education; they have never studied anything thoroughly about Western civilisation, and they could not study now if you asked them. They have no energy left. To instruct them to carry out reforms is like asking your cook to become your tailor, your tailor to become your cook."

How little real power the Emperor had got was admitted by the poor young fellow in his reply: "I am very sorry! I have practically no power to remove any high ministers. The Empress-Dowager wants to reserve this power in her own hands."

Kang also said to the Emperor: "The chief education of China, the study of the classics, is useless. The first thing the Emperor must do is to abolish these examinations, and establish a system of education on the lines of Western countries." This the Emperor partially did in one of his decrees soon afterwards. But, alas! all his attempted reforms were immediately afterwards swept away by the Empress-Dowager; and now the old worthless system of education prevails in full force.

At first sight it might seem that the choosing of the highest officials in the land by competitive examination is the best possible system that could be devised. Even in England, however, it is often hard to see in what

manner a great many of the subjects which our youth have to study with a view to examinations will be of benefit to them in after-life. But for a *reductio ad absurdum* of the idea that the most practical and best man for any post under heaven is he who possesses the gift of passing examinations in things which will have no bearing on his future work go to China. There the qualification for a mandarin is now, as it has been for the last 2,000 years, the composition in flowery language of some essay on the ancient classics, embellished with innumerable quotations.

There can be little doubt that the Emperor, having once got the idea of reform into his head, moved too fast for his conservative people. Besides the abolition of classical essays as a necessary part of examinations (June 23rd, 1898), every few days thereafter some fresh reform was, to the horror of his advisers, either begun or discussed. Western arms and drill were talked of for the Tartar troops; agricultural schools, patent and copyright laws, were to be introduced; special rewards were offered to inventors and authors; trade was to be assisted, and even journalists encouraged to air their views on politics. On September 7th, 1898, the great Li Hung Chang and Ching Hsin were dismissed from the Tsung-li Yamen; the governorships of three provinces were abolished as a useless expense; and a week afterwards the two Presidents and four Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites were also dismissed.

It was these dismissals that brought matters to a head. The Chinese official's hatred of reform is at all

Competitive Exams at their Worst.

Emperor's Lack of Power.

Attempt at Educational Reform.

Reforming too Fast.



Photo by Russell & Sons, Baker Street, W.

LI HUNG CHANG.

times his prominent feature ; but when that reform takes the form of removing **Deposition** him from his post, it is of the needless to say his pious **Emperor.** horror knows no bounds. The dismissed officials rushed to the Empress-Dowager, whose anti-foreign sympathies and lust for power made her only too ready to back them up. Had the Emperor been a wise man, he would have made sure that the troops were on his side, and have seen to it that a corps was ready

for possible emergencies. Just as in humbler life "the man with the bag" is the man with influence, so where kings do plot it is the one with troops at his back who ultimately holds power. In this case, evidently, it was the Empress and the officials who had the troops. So one fine day, the world, which had been gladdened by the news of the reforms in China, was startled to hear that the Emperor had been deposed and the Empress - Dowager had again taken the reins of government.

The hint to Kang Yu Wei that the game **Flight of Kang.** was up was conveyed to him in characteristically Chinese fashion. It took the form of an open Edict, asking "why Kang

Yu Wei was still in Peking, and did not proceed at once to Shanghai to attend to the establishment of the official organ." Fortunately Kang was not slow to perceive the underlying meaning and flee, as almost immediately afterwards came an order that he was to be sliced in pieces at the moment of capture ; his family were to be killed, together with his uncles, his cousins, and his aunts ; even the very graves of his ancestors were to be razed to the ground. Such

is the penalty of the reformer in China.

Some of his relatives and friends were not as smart as himself in getting

The Empress's Bloody Revenge. away; six of them being caught and summarily beheaded in Peking. The same fate was also meted

out, somewhere in the grim recesses of the Forbidden City, on fourteen of the Emperor's personal attendants; while he himself was made a prisoner.

Mrs. Little, in her "Intimate China," mentions a pathetic story current in

Imprisonment of the Emperor. Peking of how the poor deposed young monarch tried to escape. He was

confined at the time on an island in the lake at Eho Park, one of the Empress's residences. From the island he escaped; but when he reached the park entrance, the great gates were swung to in his face. A swarm of the Empress-Dowager's eunuchs had followed him. They dared not, however, touch his sacred person, but in typically Chinese fashion knelt all round the Emperor, with tears beseeching him to have mercy on them, as if he escaped it would mean death to them all. Meanwhile (and likewise in Chinese fashion), they sent one of their number to let the Empress know what was taking place. The Emperor, of course, had to return to his prison.

Since the Emperor's imprisonment in September, 1898, the foreigner-

Reversal of Attempts at Reform. hating Empress-Dowager has, of course, had it all her own way. For a long period it was uncertain whether the

Emperor was living or dead—at one time it was rumoured he was poisoned; but though imprisoned and made a mere cypher, it is not clear that he ever was exactly deposed. The lengths,

however, to which the Empress went in abolishing all the reforms he had introduced show only too well that he was Emperor only in name. All the new societies which, in consequence of his decree abolishing long essays and substituting useful subjects, had been formed for the purchase of scientific books and engaging teachers in mathematics found that the very lives of their members were in danger. Newspapers were suppressed and the editors summarily sentenced to death. To such mad lengths did bigotry carry the Empress, she even ordered that soldiers who had been drilled and armed according to European methods should revert to bows and arrows.

It would appear that, after the events of September, 1898, the Em-

Choice of an Heir to the Throne. peror has had little of the semblance and none of the substance of power. That even the semblance should

be minimised as much as possible, the unhappy man was this year (1900) forced by the Empress-Dowager, Tsu Hsi, to issue a Decree appointing a successor. He even had to announce in his Decree that the choice of a successor was left to the Empress Tsu Hsi. One of the extraordinary features of Chinese ancestor-worship is revealed in the fact that at the time when the present Emperor, Kwang Hsu, came to the throne, at the age of four, the Empress-Dowager issued a Decree that, if a son should be born to him, he should, when Kwang Hsu died, become Emperor—not, be it noted, as the natural successor of his father, but as heir by adoption of the previous Emperor, Tung Chih. The idea of this was that the latter should have a descendant to worship

his memory and provide for his well-being in the world to come.

Young Prince P'u-Chun, on whom the Empress-Dowager's choice fell, is at present only fourteen years old. He is first cousin, once removed, to the reigning sovereign. According to our ideas, he would seem to have really the better title to the throne of the two, being descended from a fifth son of the Emperor Tao-Kuang, who died in 1851, whereas the reigning Emperor is descended from his seventh son.

Bearing in mind all that we know of the treatment the poor Emperor Kwang Hsu has received at the hands of the Empress-Imperial Dowager since September, 1898, his Imperial Decree on the subject of his successor, as published in the *Peking Gazette* of January 24th, 1900, makes amusing reading. We give some extracts:—

"Reflecting on the supreme importance of the worship of our ancestors and of the spirits of the land, we therefore implored the Empress-Dowager to advise us in the Government. This was more than a year ago, but we have never been restored to health, and we have not the strength to perform in person the great sacrifices at the Altar of Heaven and in the temples of the spirits of the land.

"Moreover, we call to mind how, when we first succeeded to the throne, we reverently received the Empress-Dowager's Decree that, as soon as a

Prince should be born to us, he should become the heir by adoption of the late Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (Tung Chih).

"But we suffer from an incurable disease, and it is impossible for us to beget a son, so that the Emperor Mu Tsung Yi has no posterity, and the consequences to the lines of succession are of the utmost gravity. Sorrowfully thinking on this, and feeling that there is no place to hide myself for shame, how can we look forward to recovery from all our ailments?

"We have therefore humbly implored Her Sacred Majesty carefully to select from among the near branches of our family a good and worthy member, who should found a line of posterity for the Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (Tung Chih), and to whom the throne should revert hereafter. After repeated entreaties, Her Majesty has now deigned to grant her consent that P'u-Chun, son of Tsai Yi, Prince Tuan, should be adopted as the son of the late Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (Tung Chih). We have received Her Majesty's Decree with unspeakable joy, and in reverent obedience to her gracious instruction we appoint P'u-Chun, son of Tsai Yi, as Prince Imperial to carry on the dynastic succession.

"Let this Decree be made known to all men."

The Prince Tuan mentioned in the Emperor's Decree is the one who is said to have seized the reins of power in Peking and ordered the attacks on the Legations.





CHINESE SOLDIERS ARMED WITH BOWS AND ARROWS.

Even to this day a considerable portion of the regiments of China are armed with bows and arrows. So devotedly anti-foreign is the Empress, that when she cancelled the reforms made by the Emperor, she insisted on bows and arrows being served out again in place of rifles to the Peking soldiery.

CHAPTER IX.

How the Dragon's Wings have been clipped.

1860 to 1899.

Cause of Franco-Chinese War of 1883-85—Outbreak of Hostilities—How Chinese observe Treaties—An Absurd Demand—Chinese and French Mistakes—French Reverse—Both Sides claim Victory—Events leading to China-Japanese War—China's Quibbling—Japan's Desire for War—Europe backs China—Japan's Army and Navy—China's Army and Navy—Regiments with no Soldiers—A Regiment of "Tramps"—China's Threat to break Negotiations—Japan's Reply—Battle of the Yalu River—Forcing of the Yalu—Out - of - Date Tactics—Useless Ammunition—Capture of Talienwan and Port Arthur—Last Acts of the Drama—Peace Negotiations—Treaty of Shimonoseki—Europe intervenes—Russia obtains Port Arthur—Unpaid Soldiers—The Friendly Villagers—The Scramble for China.

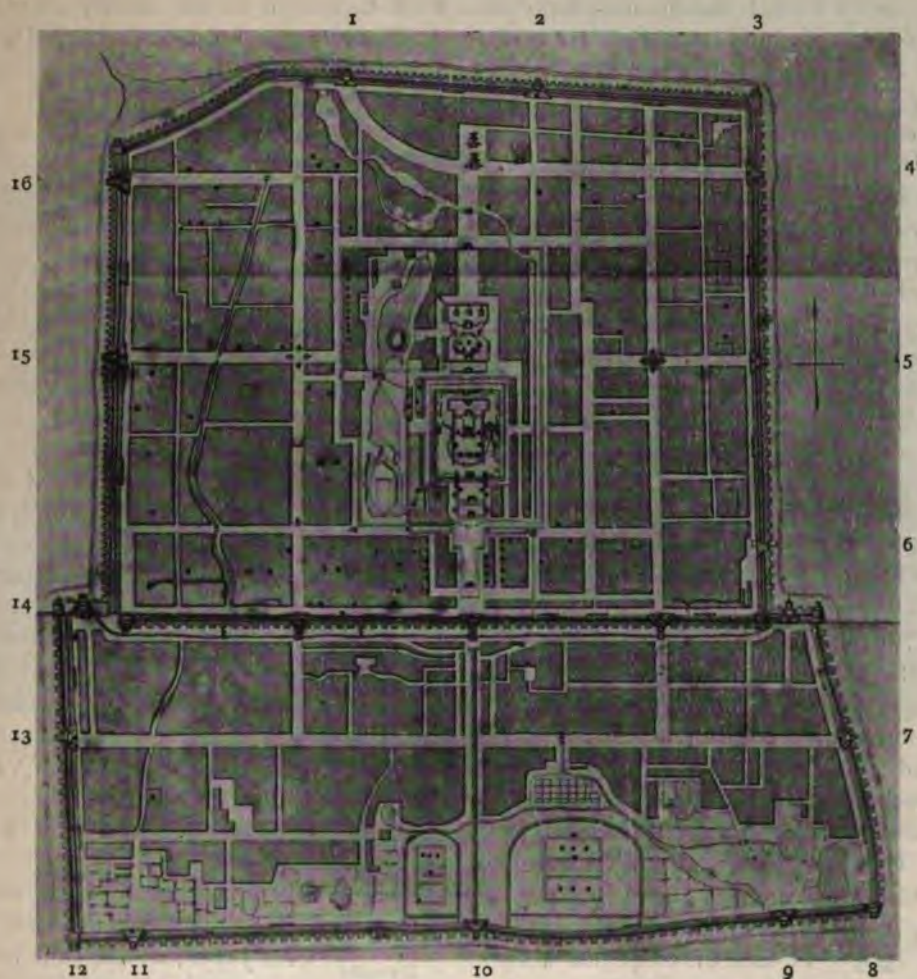
*"Two things better than all things are—
The first is Power, the second is War."*

To return, however, from the sad story of the personal life of the young Emperor to that of the chequered events which during his reign have brought down China from her former high place amongst the nations to the position she now holds in the world's esteem. After the lesson taught them by the Allies in 1860, the Peking Government were more chary of again giving such cause of offence to any European Power as would lead to war. Of course, the "policy of pin-pricks" was pursued by them: it would seem as if it was more than Manchu nature was capable of to avoid being more or less rude at times. Nothing serious, however, occurred till 1883, when trouble arose with the French.

Our Gallic neighbours had for a long time claimed to have political and commercial influence over Tonquin and the kingdom of Annam. These states, which border on the south of China, were also claimed as being under the suzerainty of Peking. Semi-piratical bands were marauding in Tonquin, against whom the French

sent a force, which met with obstinate resistance. They then sent a further force; and this, though it at first attained a partial success, was forced to retire, owing to the flooding of a river. Eventually, however, the King of Annam was deposed by a revolution in his own state, which, together with Tonquin, was then, in "French leave" fashion, taken under the protectorate of France, without any reference to China's feelings in the matter. But that country all the while continued to assert her claims. Up to Decem-

Outbreak ber 18th, 1883, however, of no actual fighting between **Hostilities.** troops of the two countries had taken place. On that day the French moved their army forward and captured Sontai, though it was held at the time by Chinese regular troops. Desultory fighting followed; but the resistance of China seemed, early in the following year, to have come to an end when a place called Bacninh was captured from them. Soon after this event, Li Hung Chang, on their behalf, entered into a provisional treaty of peace.



26 $\frac{3}{4}$ English miles in circumference.

PLAN OF THE CITY OF PEKING.

Key to the Plan.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. The Gate of the Exaltation of Virtue. | 9. The Left Gate of Peace. |
| 2. The Gate of Stable Peace. | 10. The Gate of Eternal Constancy. |
| 3. City Armoury Tower. | 11. The Right Gate of Peace. |
| 4. The Gate facing the East. | 12. Watch Tower. |
| 5. The Gate of the Rising Sun. | 13. The Gate of Perfect Repose. |
| 6. The Gate of the North-east Angle. | 14. The Gate of the Western Angle. |
| 7. The Gate of the Great Canal. | 15. The Gate of the Rampart. |
| 8. Watch Tower. | 16. The Gate facing the West. |

The numbers in the above key refer to the corresponding figures round the diagram. The scale of the plan is approximately seven-eighths of an inch to the mile.

On the French commander, however, going to occupy certain places mentioned in the treaty, he was fired on by Chinese troops. It was just the old time-honoured way in which the yellow men have gone back on every treaty they have ever made. But the French Government thought they saw a chance to make a good thing out of it. They intimated that their moral

and intellectual damages could only be assuaged by a trifle of £10,000,000 sterling, and that they would rather like an apology as well. The Peking Government could not be persuaded to see the moderate nature of the request, and replied that they would give neither the one nor the other.

So a French squadron attacked the forts at the entrance to Foochow, inflicting some damage on them, as also on the arsenal there and some old and worthless Chinese vessels. It also blockaded Formosa, and there annihilated China's Foochow squadron.

To show how utterly rotten were the Chinese methods of naval warfare, her

two squadrons had no sort of idea of combined action. The reason of this was that they were then, as now, not national but provincial fleets, raised for and by certain districts. The result was that the Nanyang squadron did nothing to help the Foochow squadron, which was consequently annihilated, and then the Nanyang squadron took its place. However, if the Chinese made mistakes, they were but little worse than those of the French. Instead of having the sense to follow the example set in 1860 of going for Peking itself, by which they would soon have had things their own way, the French conducted

their campaign in the deadly climate of Tonquin; in a country utterly unsuited to modern warfare—all rice-fields, canals, and bushy hills.

At the end of March, 1815, a considerable reverse fell to their arms.

French Reverse. General Négrier was attacked and routed by a large Chinese army, who recaptured Langson, and put him in so bad a way that he found it necessary to urgently cable for reinforcements. Indeed, it was at one time doubtful whether he would be able to hold the delta of the Red River at all.

China, in the moment of her temporary triumph, had the sense, however, to recognise that it was only temporary—that the French could go on, and that she could not. So she concluded a peace, by which she had to admit the French protectorate over Annam and possession of Tonquin. But she escaped the £10,000,000 indemnity, so has ever after prided herself on having been, as she imagines, victor in the campaign.

During the time that this war was going on, China had also a little affair with Japan, which, as it had an important bearing on the China-Japanese War of 1894, must be mentioned here. Put in brief, it was this. In order to avenge an insult to their representative in Korea, the Japanese, in 1884, sent troops into that country. Korea was another of those countries over which China claimed suzerainty; so of course she interfered in the matter. The end of it was, however, that in 1885 a friendly treaty was concluded between the two countries, by which it was stipulated that, if ever either of them in future should find it

How Chinese observe Treaties.

An Absurd Demand.

Both Sides claim Victory.

Chinese and French Mistakes.

Events leading to China-Japanese War.



CHINKIANG : THE BUND.

Chinkiang is a Treaty Port on the Yangtse which has shown such a tendency to rise and massacre the foreigners that they have all had to leave. The gunboats sent to take them away would wait at the Bund for the passengers.

necessary to land troops in Korea to protect her interests, neither should do so without notice to the other, while, if possible, the action should be a joint one.

In terms of this treaty Japan in 1894 vainly appealed to China for **China's** redress concerning certain **Quibbling**. depredations committed on her merchants in Korea. Finally she gave notice that it was her intention to land troops, and demanded a joint occupation. On her doing so, the Chinese called on her to evacuate the country, at the same time refusing her proposals to jointly occupy it. She made out that Korea was still a suzerain state to China, though she might be free to contract treaties ; and that as a preliminary to her taking any steps

towards redressing the wrongs alleged by Japan the troops in Korea must be withdrawn.

The Japanese — smart, practical people that they are—deemed them-
Japan's selves too old birds to be
Desire for caught with that kind of
War. chaff. Anyhow, their Govern-

ment at that time were in danger of being turned out of power, so they hit on the old-fashioned dodge of going to war to divert public attention from themselves. The war party, too, in Japan had for a long time been growing in strength. Most strenuous efforts had been made by the whole nation to provide itself with a first-class army and navy. In this, as in everything else, they had striven to follow Western ideas. The whole country had some

time previously suddenly taken it into its head that European ways were better, and had set itself to work to copy "the very latest" in everything. Their newly-drilled, modern-applianced army and navy had cost a good deal of money ; they were inordinately proud of them, and anxious to show what their new toys could do.

In Europe, when the news came that there was a prospect of war between **Europe** Japan and China, the one **backs** exclamation was, "What on **China.** earth chance can Japan have?" To most minds Japan was still a country on the same level as China. Comparatively few seemed to be aware of how it had set to work on its own regeneration, and how complete and marvellous was the change which had taken place. So they could only follow up their first exclamation by saying, "Why, China has four hundred millions of people, whilst Japan has but forty millions!"

Only the few dreamed that Japan's relatively small population nevertheless **Japan's** contained more than enough **Army and** soldiers to lay low the proud **Navy.** pretensions of the great Dragon of the East. At that time her army on a peace footing amounted, according to the Hon. George Curzon, M.P., in his book "Problems of the Far East," to only about 60,000 men, with a reserve of 113,000, and a *landwehr* of 80,000—all, however, armed and drilled according to the very highest standard of nineteenth-century requirements. "The Japanese army," he said, "need not shrink from the test of comparison, in point of efficiency, with the forces of European states." Another writer of high military repute, Colonel E. G. Barrow, writing in the *United Service Magazine* a year previous to

the outbreak of war, said as follows : "As regards the Japanese troops, the infantry are very good—better than even some European infantry I could name ; the artillery good, or at least fair ; and the cavalry indifferent. . . . The army is not a paper sham, but a complete living organisation, framed on the best models, and as a rule thoroughly adapted to the requirements of the country." Such was the Japanese army. As to her navy, Young Japan even then aspired to be "the England of the East." She had over 40 vessels of war, with a total displacement of 50,000 tons, which she meant to treble at the earliest possible date.

China, on the other hand, had about 65 vessels in her navy, including 4 **China's** ironclads and 16 cruisers, **Navy and** as well as over 30 torpedo-**Army.** boats. Her total tonnage was 65,000. She was therefore—on paper—considerably stronger than Japan. As to her army, it was—on paper—not less than 300,000 on a peace footing ; while on a war footing it was—on paper—not less than 1,000,000. A truly formidable force—on paper. But to show how very much "on paper" it was, it is necessary to make reference to some of the delightfully **Regiments** original ideas which have **with no** been hit on by Chinese **Soldiers.** officers for the management of their regiments. For instance, it is an awful trouble for "an officer and a gentleman"—not to say a Manchu—who has arrived at his military command by his skill in composing verses on the ancient classics, to have to drill a large body of men. Then there is all the bore of having to distribute their pay. It saves a lot of work to dismiss the men entirely, and it is altogether more convenient to pocket



GETTING A BOAT UP THE YANGTSE RAPIDS.

The amount of labour endured by the "trackers" who work the enormously long oars, called *yulohs*, or haul the boats by main force up the Yangtse Rapids, is almost beyond belief. Yet the men seem to take a real delight in their work. The Yangtse above Ichang is a terrible stream, being one long rapid for an immense distance. No other nation but the hardworking Chinese would dream of trying to get large vessels up these rapids.

the whole of the money for their pay and keep instead of having the worry of distributing it. Of course there are drawbacks to the perfect carrying out of this beautiful idea. It occasionally happens that a general feels he must show some sort of interest in his work, so comes round to inspect; but if a careful explanation is given of the cause of the men's absence, together with a gift of, say, half the amount of the pay appropriated, the good man will generally believe what he is told. Sometimes, however, it happens that a general comes along who actually wants to see the soldiers.

But the master-brain which could hit on the novel idea of drawing pay for regiments which do not exist is not to be upset by any little trouble

of that kind. Mrs. Little, in her "Intimate China," mentions how at

A Ichang, a thousand miles
Regiment up the river Yangtse, there
of Tramps. was a parade of a regiment of soldiers dressed as tigers. She was told that these Tigers were not really soldiers at all, though some officer drew pay for them as if they existed. The men on parade that day were all the beggars and riff-raff of the city, who had been paid to put on the Tiger uniform over their rags. Of course these are extreme cases; but although it was known that the Chinese army was not all that it professed to be, and that it was very badly armed, few people dreamed but that China must win in the end by sheer weight of numbers.

The first intimation that war was

really likely to break out between the two countries was the news

China's Threat to break off Negotiations. that China had threatened to break off negotiations unless the Japanese cleared out (by July 20th, 1894) the 11,000 men they had landed the previous week in Korea. It was at the same time rumoured that 12,000 Chinese troops were already on the way to see the demand carried out.

Japan evidently believed in the motto :

"Thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just,
And four times he who gets his blow in first."

For the world was next startled with the news of the sinking of a Chinese

Japan's Reply. transport with 1,400 soldiers on board, "in consequence of severe provocation," as the Japanese Foreign Office put it in their manifesto. After this the little men from the land of the Mikado were not long in making painfully clear to the Chinese the stuff of which they were made. By July 23rd, 1894, the Japanese troops had reached Seoul, the capital of Korea, whose king found shot and shell raining on his palace. By the end of that day the whole city was in their hands. Within a fortnight thereafter 20,000 more Japanese troops had landed at Chemulpo, on the west side of Korea ; and by the middle of the following month they had fought a great pitched battle with the Chinese troops at Pingyang. Here, tremendous preparations had been made to check the invaders ; but all in vain. The precision and drill of the Japanese troops, who swept down on them from three directions at once with machine-like certainty, proved too much for the hordes of China. They fled from their

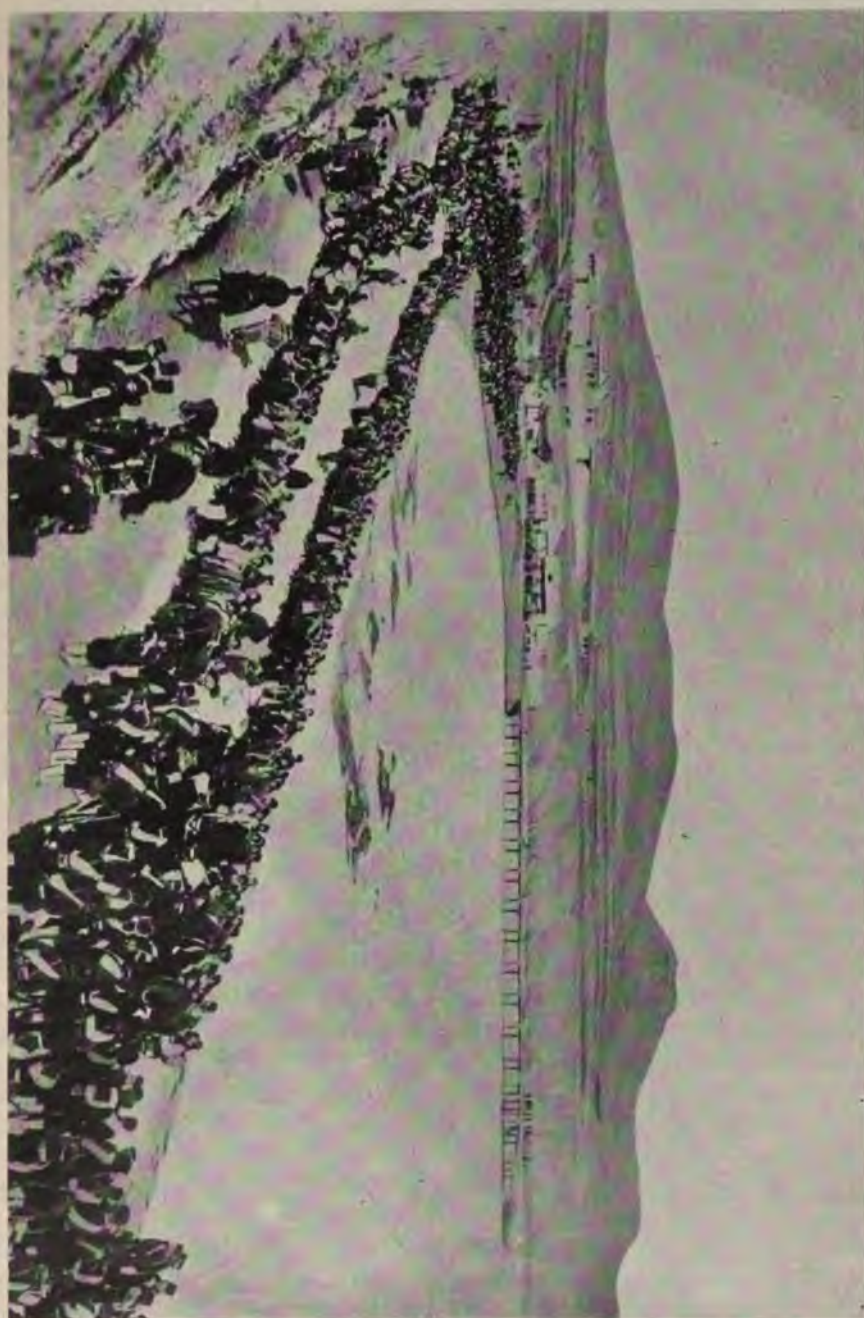
camp, leaving huge quantities of all kinds of stores, ammunition, and guns.

If the Chinese failed on land, their performances at sea were even more

Battle of the Yalu River. hopeless. The rival fleets met each other at the mouth of the Yalu River the day

after the battle of Pingyang. While the Chinese fleet, formed in a crescent, commenced banging away long before they were within efficient range, the Japanese ships came on silent and grim in a straight line abreast. Not a gun did they fire till within a mile and a half range. Then a storm of shot and shell burst on the Chinese ships. A signal suddenly fluttered to the mast-head of the Japanese flag-ship. In a moment the whole fleet had turned, and was swinging down in a concentrated attack on one horn of the Chinese crescent. Another signal ; the ships had again turned, as if moved by a single hand, and now the other horn of the crescent was exposed to the fury of that withering cannonade. In a very short space of time all trace of formation and discipline had been lost in the Chinese fleet. One vessel, nearly sinking already, had been blown up by a torpedo ; two were on fire and run ashore ; while the greater part of the remainder were considerably damaged. On the side of the Japanese only one ship of war had been at all badly hit, though a transport had been considerably crippled. It was the first time that modern ironclads had come into action. A notable event, this "Battle of the Yalu River," not only for this, but also because it notified to the world that a naval power existed in the East that would have to be considered in the future.

Higher up on the same river, a month later, another battle was to be



JAPANESE FORCE LANDING IN CHINA IN 1894.

fought; this time between the two land armies. Though the Chinese held

the banks in great force, **The Forcing of the Yalu.** 1,600 Japanese succeeded in forcing their way across in the face of tremendous opposition. They captured a fort guarding the river, and held it till the whole army had got safely over. Once on the other side, the Chinese resistance was broken; a hot pursuit ensued, in which thirty guns were captured.

The war was to last a few months longer yet; but it was plain to all the

world now who were to be **Out-of-Date Tactics.** the victors. It even began to dawn on the Chinese that possibly their standard military books were getting out of date: it should be mentioned that most of them are 3,000 years old. They awoke also to the fact that the advice given in them by Sun-Tse, their highest military authority, to "spread in the camp of the enemy voluptuous musical airs, so as to soften his heart," seemed to produce not the smallest effect on the outputs of the Japanese Maxims. The troops began to get tired of generals who arrived on the field of battle in sedan-chairs; they began to wonder whether, if their officers had had some slight knowledge of the rudiments of fighting instead of such a brilliant and perfect acquaintance with the ancient classics, they might not have done better.

Then, too, variety may be charming, but not when it applies to cartridges.

Useless Ammunition. When your life depends on your rifle, and your rifle is a Martini-Henry, while to feed it you are given a mixed assortment of Westley Richards, Sniders, Remingtons, Colts, and about a dozen other different kinds of cartridges, none of

which will fit, if you are a sensible man you run away—at least that is what the Chinese soldier thought, and that is what the Chinese soldier did in most of the engagements which followed. If he had only been properly armed, properly drilled, and above all properly led, he would have been a very formidable opponent indeed, with his splendid strength and endurance, his intelligence and obedience, and his indifference to death.

A week after the passing of the Yalu River a second Japanese army landed, this time on the **Capture of Tallienwan and Port Arthur.** Liaotung Peninsula, in China itself. Two days after (November 6th, 1894) it took Tallienwan, and on November 18th had reached Port Arthur. After a furious cannonade the forts were carried at the bayonet-point, and within four days of their arrival outside the town the Mikado's victorious troops were in possession.

So uniformly successful were the Japanese that it might be said they only met with one real check throughout the war. This occurred on December 19th, when they attacked 10,000 troops under General Sung. The Japs, after disabling a battery, made a rush, thinking to capture it, but met with such an obstinate resistance that they were forced to fall back. Twice again they charged, even breaking the Chinese line in places, and having hand-to-hand encounters; but the Celestials stood their ground. Finally, however, on the arrival of reinforcements, drill and generalship told; and this battle, like all the rest, ended in a Chinese rout.

Of the events which stand out in this long chain of unbroken success, the most important thereafter was the proclamation of Korea's independence,



THE CHINESE CITY, PEKING.

This view is taken from the top of the Tartar City wall. It conveys a good idea of the squalor of a Peking street. Note how the booths run down both sides. In the space between these and the houses all kinds of itinerant trades, such as haircutting, umbrella-mending, dentistry, cobbling, etc., are carried on.



VIEW OF PEKING FROM THE TOP OF THE WALL.

Showing the road by the canal along which the Allies marched to the Legations. The awful condition of the Peking roads, ankle-deep in dust, is here strikingly shown. Note the salt-heaps on the left-hand side. Salt is a Government monopoly in China.

which took place at Seoul on January 8th, 1895, and the investment and

The Last capture of Wei-hai-wei on **Acts of the** the 29th and 30th. Feb-

Drama. ruary's early days saw the last act of the drama. The whole of the Chinese fleet—all that was left of it, that is, from the battle of the Yalu River—was captured or destroyed, three large ironclads being successfully sunk or disabled by Japanese torpedo-boats in Yungcheng Bay. Admiral Ting—China's only admiral—a brave and good man, who had worked himself up from the ranks, was forced to surrender; and though received with all the honours of war, committed suicide. Such was the end of China's fleet.

At last the Court of Peking realised that they had been living in a fool's

Peace paradise. Till this time **Negotia-** they had never considered **tions.**

even the possibility of "the dwarfs from the east" being able to reach their sacred capital. Now it was plain that they would certainly do so—that China's army was a poor broken reed, which could not stay their victorious advance for a moment. A treaty of peace must be made—it possible, of course one which could be slipped out of, or, better still, repudiated altogether, should a favourable opportunity hereafter offer. The enemy must be got rid of somehow. But the Japanese were as wise in council as they were strong in war. Being of kindred race, it was a case of "set a thief to catch a thief"; every turn of the game was known to them. So one or two Chinese missions which arrived with insufficient powers, whose actions could therefore, if convenient, have been repudiated by the Peking Court, were returned with thanks. It

was not till the great Li Hung Chang himself, a humble suppliant at the gate of the victors, arrived in Japan that negotiations really commenced. Then an unfortunate incident happened. A "Soshi," or Japanese fanatic—half patriot, half anarchist—shot at and seriously wounded him in the back. It was bad for him, but good for his country. It aroused the chivalry of the Mikado, so that Li was able to secure better terms than he otherwise would have done for his helpless nation.

They were quite hard enough, however. By the Treaty of Shimono-
Treaty of signed April 15th, 1895, **Shimono-** China had to agree to **seki.** pay a war indemnity of 200,000,000 taels (£30,000,000), to recognise the absolute independence of Korea, besides parting with the island of Formosa and the Pescadores group. In addition to these terms it was originally agreed that Japan was to retain the Liaotung Peninsula, including Port Arthur.

Meanwhile, however, it had dawned on some of the Powers of Europe that **Europe in-** Japan would serve as an **tervenes.** excellent monkey to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them. Russia, Germany, and France united to bring pressure to bear. They got her to evacuate the Liaotung Peninsula and Port Arthur, in consideration of her receiving an additional sum from China of 30,000,000 taels (£5,000,000). China, however, did not get much for the additional money.

Within six months it came to light that Russia had quietly obtained ex-
Russia clusive access to this port. **obtains** Further, that their Trans-
Port Siberian Railway, instead of **Arthur.** only reaching the sea at the often ice-bound Vladivostock in



DAMAGE TO FORT WANG-TUH-GAI AT WEI-HAI-WEI BY THE JAPANESE BOMBARDMENT.

the north, was now to be permitted to strike south through Manchuria to the far more central and open harbour of Port Arthur. Russia, by taking the part of China against Japan, at any rate gained over the affair; for she managed to increase her influence at Peking to an extent only proportionate to the decrease of English influence. For a time, at any rate, she quite succeeded in making the Celestial

Court believe that "Codlin's the friend, not Short"; and that England was not half so powerful as herself. China needed money to pay off her indemnity to Japan; and the Russian Government, acting together with the bankers of Paris, managed, by a clever financial *coup*, to get her to borrow from them, so strengthening their hold upon her.

How desperate was China's need of

money and how hopeless her condition at the moment may

Unpaid be gathered from **Soldiers**, the fact that her poor wretched soldiers had to get back to their homes as best they could, after receiving not a penny of pay for months. Naturally, of course, they looted wherever and whenever a chance presented itself to keep themselves going.

Their proceedings sometimes gave rise to curious

The incidents. On one **Friendly** occasion a party **Villagers**, of these soldiers, who had just done some very successful looting, arrived at a village, where, as they had money, they had no difficulty in obtaining food. The village elder—a nice friendly old man—came to them, and gave them a hint that the Japanese had been seen quite near. "Don't you think," he said, "you had better leave

all your weapons in our care? If the Japanese see you armed, they will be sure to imagine you have come to fight, and then you will get killed." It seemed a capital idea. The soldiers were only too thankful to hand all their rifles and cartridges to the care of the villagers. When, however, they were just getting ready to march, the innocent rustics opened fire on them with their own guns, at the same time demanding that they should hand over everything they had got—with which demand, of course, there was nothing for it but to comply.

China's desperate position—with an



A CHINESE DOCTOR.

The wearing of extraordinarily long finger-nails by the Chinese is an affectation to denote to the world that the wearer does not have to do manual work for a living, but spends his days in literary or kindred pursuits. Sometimes the nails grow so long as to require to be protected by silver cases.

army completely demoralised and broken, with her fleet annihilated, and

China's with no money left in her **Big** coffers—placed her at the **Brother.** mercy of the Powers of

Europe to do with almost as they would. Russia, as we have seen, by coming in as China's big brother to save her from the consequences of her fight with Japan, was able to get Port Arthur. To this later on she added the neighbouring harbour of Talienwan. Germany acquired Kiao-chau as the price of a couple of murdered missionaries; while to England was allotted the town and fortress of Wei-hai-wei. In each case

Chinese vanity was saved by the agreeable fiction that these places were let to the various nations "on lease."

The scramble for China had, by 1898, become so keen, what with these

The leases and negotiations for Scramble loans and concessions for for China. railways, that it looked at one time as if the whole crockery-shop would be broken up amongst the Powers of Europe. The danger, however, that the scramble would lead to universal war amongst all the would-be participants was so great, that China, by playing off the jealousies of the various Powers against each other, has succeeded so far in retaining her empire. She has been forced, however, by need of money to give concessions to various European syndicates for railways, the making of which she had hitherto steadily opposed. As to the reasons why the nations of Europe should all be so desperately anxious to have a finger in the Chinese pie, and as to the nature of the prizes which may be expected to be drawn therefrom, it is necessary to have a separate chapter, before passing on to the story of how the final trouble arose which culminated in the awful attack on the Peking Legations.



PAGODA AT KIENKIANG.

Pagodas similar to this are dotted about all over China, but especially on the banks of the Yangtse, where they serve a useful purpose as steering-points. Most of them are at least a thousand years old. There is generally a religious temple or Buddhist monastery at the base, with idols at every storey, some pagodas containing in all as many as 2,000 idols.



CHAPTER X.

The Prize in China.

The Nature of the Prize—Extent of Present Trade—"Open Door" *versus* "Sphere of Influence"—Enormous Trade Possibilities—Wonderful Wealth of Coal—Other Minerals—Plentiful Labour—What may happen—Cheapness of Labour—Cheap Living—Agricultural Prosperity—Primitive Implements—Irrigation—The Yangtse River—Other Splendid Waterways—Peculiarity of the Hoang-ho—A Curious Theory—Cause of Inundations—The Grand Canal—Decay and Speculation—Nature of our Trade and Commerce—Why the Tea Trade declined—Chinese Drawbacks—Insecurity to Life and Property—Foreigners not allowed to reside—"Likin" Dues—Official Squeezes—Rampant Dishonesty—How Superstition hinders Trade—Awful Roads—The Great Opening for Railways—The Peking-Hankow Railway—The Peking-Hangchow Railway—Railways already in Existence—What can be hoped for from Railways.

*"In happy climes, where from the genial sun
And virgin earth such scenes ensue,
The force of art by nature seems outdone,
And fancied beauties by the true."*

BERKELEY.

WHAT is the prize in China for which all the nations are struggling? Ask

the man in the street, and **The Nature of the Prize?** he will probably only answer your question with another. "If it is our trade, surely it is not worth all the fuss that is made about it?" The ignorance which seems to still prevail is extraordinary, not only as to the extent of our trade with China already, but also as to the immense possibilities for its development which that great country presents in the future.

Many people are astonished when informed that the total volume of **Extent of Present Trade.** foreign trade with China already amounts to over *sixty-five million pounds sterling* a year; and, further, that of this large amount Great Britain overtops all the other nations of the world in the proportion of more than two to one. Not only this, but of the shipping which carries the goods represented by these figures three-fourths is under the English flag.

If China were parcelled out amongst nations like Russia, France, and Germany, "Open Door" many, preferential duties *versus* "Sphere of Influence." would be put on goods coming from all other countries but their own.

As the articles offered by others would be consequently more expensive, the Chinese in each protectorate would be virtually forced to buy only the products of the nation controlling that portion of their country. The door would be thus slammed in the face of England everywhere, excepting the part which came under her sphere of influence. Therefore we, together with America and Japan, are opposed to the "Sphere of Influence" idea, and steadily keep in front of us the policy of "The Open Door," as it is called. We want markets in which to sell our manufactures rather than territory.

Great as is the present total of Chinese trade, there can be little doubt there is room for almost indefinite increase. China possesses natural wealth of nearly every kind in a marvellous degree.

The Story of China

Its mineral resources are especially noteworthy. As a great authority

Enormous like Mr. A. R. Colquhoun
Trade remarks in his "China in
Possibili- Transformation," "mining
ties.

is capable of a practically almost unlimited extension."

The province of Shansi, which, as

Wonderful will
Wealth of be seen
Coal. from

the map, lies south-west of Peking, is believed to be perhaps the most wonderful coal and iron region on the earth. Richt-hofen stated it as his belief that at the present rate of consumption the whole world

dant cheap coal lies very near to the root of all industrial greatness in these days of steam. The recent rise in its price in England, with the consequent increase in the cost of almost

everything else, has brought that fact home to us in a striking way. Even Johannesburg's far-famed gold-mines would be valueless were it not for the fact that coal, for driving the machinery which extracts the precious metal, was found in contiguous reefs.

Besides coal, which is here mentioned

Other first
Minerals. a s

being the most valuable of all forms of mineral wealth, iron, lead, tin, zinc, copper, mineral oil, mercury, and many other minerals are found in such quantity and quality as

would pay well for working. At Wong-chi-tong, seventy-six miles from Hankow, there are, for instance, some splendid iron-mines, the ore in which is about three-fourths of pure iron. Why they do not pay properly at present may be gathered from the



A STONEMASON.

Artisans of this class do first-rate work, and are passing rich on tenpence a day.

could be supplied with coal for thousands of years from this one province alone. Not only does it possess such an extraordinary quantity of coal, but this most useful of all minerals lies so near the surface that the cheapness with which it can be extracted is remarkable. It is unnecessary to point out that the possession of abun-

explanation that, while the manager, a German, could deliver ore at Han-yang at 1 tael, 50 cents a ton (5s.), the mandarin who administers the finances enters it down at 3 taels (10s.) a ton. One can shrewdly guess what becomes of the difference.

To sum the matter up, as Mr. Colquhoun puts it, "the mineral wealth of China, perhaps the greatest of any country on the world's surface, is as yet

that "the wealth of a country consists in the number of its inhabitants." If this is true anywhere, it ought to be of especial force in China, on account of the hard-working, frugal qualities of the race. The labour, limitless in quantity and very good in quality, is there ready to hand, when the time comes to develop China's resources. It needs European direction, European honesty, and European capital. To



HUSKING RICE.

hardly touched, while there is a vast store of human energy in China to develop that wealth."

The "vast store of human energy" to which he refers, is in its way, if any-
Plentiful thing, even more valuable
Labour. than China's latent material resources. What has been achieved in countries in themselves naturally poor, like Scotland and Germany, goes to bear out the economic maxim

attract these the land requires to be secure under good government, so that manufacturers can feel sure that in commencing work there need be no fear of the fruit of their labours being swept away. Factories of all sorts will be then transferred there to take advantage of the working qualities of the Chinese, whose manufactures, produced so cheaply, will flood the world's markets. All observers best

qualified to judge unite in testifying to the extraordinary capabilities for hard work possessed by the yellow men. They seem never to tire. Theirs also is not mere brute strength. Here we have no nation of savages, but a people, cramped though they may be by superstition and prejudice, of intellectual capacities almost, if not quite, equal to our own.

Mr. G. E. Simon says, in his work on China, that if foreign importations should hereafter cause them **What may happen.** anxiety, they will erect mills and all kinds of steam machinery, obtaining, if needful, European assistance. "It is to be hoped," he continues, "that they will stop there, because the day that they take a fancy to engage in Western industry will mark a disastrous day for Europe. Free from taxes, with cheap and abundant labour, it will be impossible to compete with them." As an instance in proof that this supposition is not that of a fevered imagination, there are even now more than a dozen cotton-mills at work in Shanghai, whose output has already altered trading conditions in the East.

To realise that what Mr. Simon points out could readily happen, it is **Cheapness of Labour.** only necessary to look at the extraordinarily low rate of wages (as compared with European standards) which prevails in China. It is seldom that a good artisan gets tenpence a day, while many do not get more than half that sum. Yet, even on this tiny wage, it is not difficult for a man to keep himself and family, so cheap is the cost of living.

The reason of this is not far to seek. The cost of living is cheap because China is blessed over almost the whole

of its immense area with a splendidly fertile soil—how fertile may be

Cheap Living. judged from the fact that in most places as many as three crops can be, and often are, raised from it in the year. Then, again, one-third of her total population is engaged in the direct production of the necessaries of life. Agriculture is undoubtedly the backbone of any country; so one in which it is so far advanced as China, where cheap living and cheap labour go hand in hand, is already well advanced on the road towards wealth.

Here, for instance, is a description of the Chengtu Plain by Mrs. Bishop: **Agricultural Prosperity.** "This glorious plain, with its 4,000,000 inhabitants, its prosperous cities and villages, its innumerable 'palatial' farm-houses among cedars, bamboo and fruit trees, its fine bridges with roofs decorated in lacquer and gold, its stately temples, its enormous wheelbarrow traffic, its water and oil mills, its boundless fertility and wealth, and its immunity for 2,000 years from drought and floods, is the monument of the engineering genius of one man, whose temple on a wooded height above the Gorge of the Couching Dragon on the Min is the most magnificent in China."

Yet the implements and methods of agriculture in China are very rude **Primitive Implements.** and unscientific. On page 51 is shown a specimen of one of their ploughs. It makes a furrow only four inches deep, though it seems to serve its purpose fairly well. The principal implement, however, is the hoe, which is used for almost every farming and gardening operation. Owing to the immense number of labourers in

proportion to the amount of land available, probably the hoe is the most suitable implement that could be employed. By its means it is possible to make the greatest use of every inch of the tiny farms, which only average from five to ten acres apiece. Every scrap of land is cultivated, the greatest ingenuity being brought to bear that nothing should be wasted.

Droughts are guarded against by the **Irrigation.** by the wonderful system the Chinese have of irrigation, which



HOW THE CHINESE WATER THEIR LAND.

An elaborate system of water-wheels invented thousands of years ago.

spreads a network of water over the whole country. Fortunately for China, she is extraordinarily well off in the matter of rivers to supply these irrigation canals and afford water communication throughout the entire empire.

The country has some of the grandest rivers in the world. Of course

The Yangtse River. the greatest is the Yangtse River. This magnificent stream, nearly 3,500 miles in length, goes right across the middle of China from east to west. Excepting only the Amazon, it is the greatest river on the earth's surface. How

colossal in scale is this magnificent waterway may be gathered from the fact that it is navigable for steamers for over 1,000 miles from the sea. Indeed, were it not for the rapids above Ichang, which could be overcome or greatly modified by engineering skill, it would be possible for small steamers to go up it for 1,500 miles. Even great, ocean-going vessels can ascend the river as far as Hankow (which is 650 miles from its mouth) in the summer flood season.

Besides the Yangtse there are also other important rivers,—like the Pei-ho, on which is situated the city and

port of Tientsin; the Han River, one of the great tributaries of the Yangtse, which it joins at Hankow; **Other** the West River, that im-
Splendid portant trading stream on
Water- which Canton is situated;
ways. and the Hoang-ho, or Yellow River. The title of Yellow River is given because of the millions of tons of yellow mud it brings down yearly. Even the sea is turned a yellow colour for miles away from its mouth. The most extraordinary feature of this great body of water is the habit it **Peculiarity** has of periodically changing
of the its banks and taking a fresh
Hoang-ho. course altogether. For instance, when the first authentic map of China was made, about fifty years ago, the Hoang-ho discharged itself into the Yellow Sea. It now falls into the Gulf of Pechihli, having shifted its course nearly 300 miles to the north. Again and again has it made these changes, which have caused it to be dubbed with the title of "China's Lament." For when this huge flood breaks its banks and shifts its course, it lays waste the country far and wide, sweeping away all within its path in one resistless deluge. In 1887, and again in 1898, the effects it produced were such as those living in the safety of Europe find it hard to realise. The greater part of two provinces, each nearly the size of England, was inundated; whole towns and villages were swept away by the all-devouring flood; and the loss of life ran into millions. In places the bodies of the unfortunate victims were so numerous as to fairly block the stream. The awful effect produced by this decomposing mass was so great that it set up a kind of low fever, that attacked those who had survived the inundation.

A curious theory (but one believed by many who have a right to express **A Curious** an opinion), which has been
Theory. advanced as to the cause of the scourge of influenza in England, is that its first beginning was directly attributable to the pestilence arising from one of these inundations of the Yellow River.

The cause of these terrifying changes of its course is no less curious than **Cause of** the effect itself. Those
the In- millions of tons of mud, to
undations. which allusion has been made, as they come down the river year by year, gradually silt it up. As the bed rises, the peasantry in the vicinity build up the banks. Year by year the grim contest of Man against Nature goes on. The river gets higher and higher, and the banks follow suit. So it continues, until perhaps the bed of the stream is actually in places as much as 60 feet higher than the surrounding country. But a day comes at last when the river says, "Who is this creature, man, that he should dare to oppose himself and his tiny works against me? Am I not the master, the mighty three-thousand-mile Hoang-ho, who must be obeyed? Away with these puny works that cramp my course!" Higher rise the waters; down goes the wall at last; a whole countryside is wiped out; and—the Londoner over his breakfast scarcely troubles to read the three lines of cable telling all that will be ever heard of it in Europe.

Besides the facilities of transport and communication afforded by her

The rivers, China has also a most
Grand wonderful system of canals.
Canal. By their means almost every great town in the empire not already on a river can be reached by water



THE BUND, SHANGHAI.

Shanghai has been mainly of interest in the struggle as "the place where the lies come from." It was at one time feared, however, that an outbreak would occur there. It is the most European place in China, and does an enormous foreign trade. The splendid nature of the buildings in the European quarter is shown by the photograph.

transport. This canal system is more than 600 years old. That known as the Grand Canal is one of the finest pieces of engineering in the world, and is a monument only second to the Great Wall of what Chinese industry can achieve. It runs right across China from north to south, connecting places nearly 900 miles apart. When it is considered that this great work was commenced in the time of Kublai Khan, in the thirteenth century, and that it is carried across those two enormous rivers the Yangtse and the Hoang-ho, to say nothing of the rocks through which it is cut, the lakes it traverses, and the swamps it drains, it will be readily conceded what an astounding feature of China it presents.

Rather, perhaps, one should say it did present; for, alas! it has been falling into decay as fast as it can do for years; like so many other things in China. Money is voted for its repair in considerable quantities; but officials have families to keep, opium to buy, and a lot of things to do with the cash other than the purpose for which it was sent to them. In consequence this was the state of things described by Lord Charles Beresford in 1898:—

**Decay
and
Peculation.**

"While at Chinkiang my attention was drawn to the Grand Canal on the south side of the Yangtse, and I saw that there was no water in it; pigs were disporting themselves in the bed, which was actually dry. It was silted up



A FISHING VILLAGE ON THE PEI-HO, BETWEEN TAKU AND TIENTSIN.

where it should join the Yangtse simply from want of care. . . . Most of the large sums of money given for the preservation of this canal are regularly peculated by the officials. The mandarin who is paid a large sum of money annually to keep the canal clean has never been south of the Yangtse River."

Formerly the rice fleet, bearing about 450,000 tons a year, passed through the canal from the great and fertile plain of the Yangtse right up to Tientsin; from whence by the Pei-ho River the immediate neighbourhood of Peking could be reached. By means of the canal the enormous extra distance of a sea voyage, with its storms and attacks of pirates, was entirely saved.

In fairness to the Chinese, however, it must be conceded that one main cause which has contributed to the canal becoming almost useless has been the alteration in the course of the Hoang-ho. This has had the effect of withdrawing the water supply from an important part of the canal. That,

however, the Grand Canal and the other canals which have fallen into disrepair could be put right again there can be little doubt. When the time comes for the country to be opened up by Europeans—as opened up it undoubtedly will be—this splendid system of waterways will be of tremendous advantage to trade.

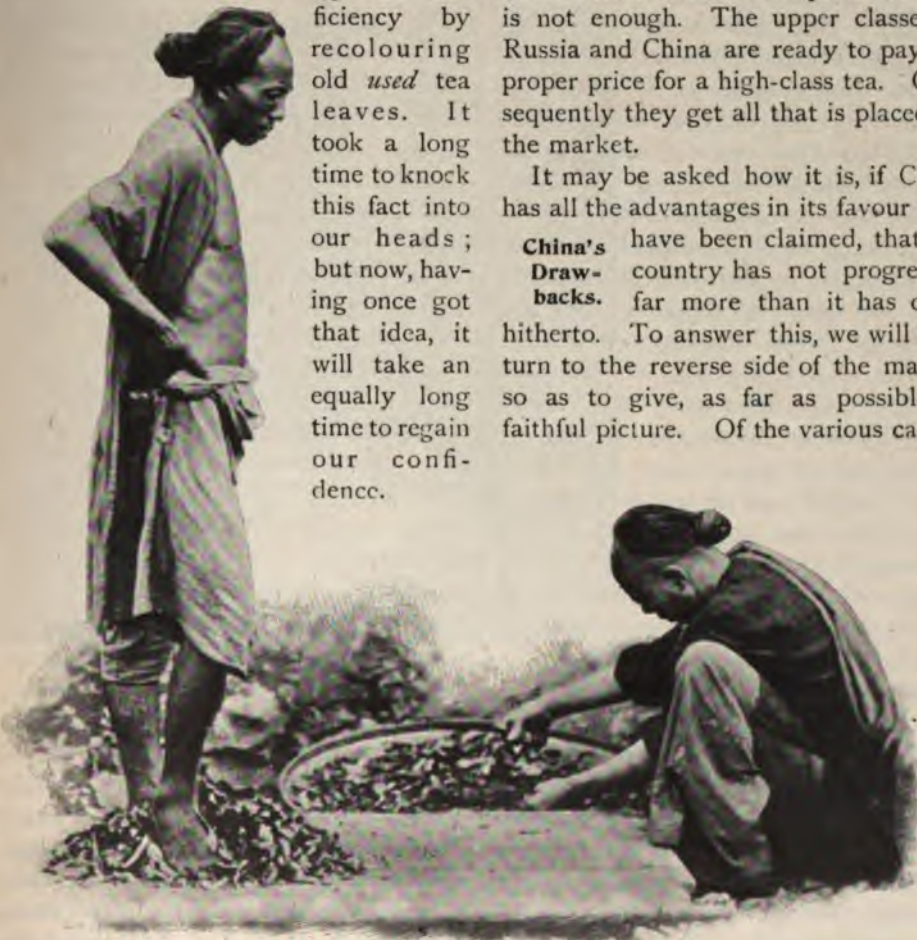
The present trade of China with Europe, great though it may be, is as nothing to the hopes of **Nature of our Trade and Commerce.** extension which it holds out in the future. Our purchases from her of tea and raw silk are enormous, as are also our sales to her of cotton and woollen goods. These four items form the greater part of the £40,000,000 which is the average annual total of British imports and exports. In tea, of course, the falling off in our purchases has been enormous; so that if this one item is barred from the reckoning, it will be seen that Chinese trade, in managing to maintain pretty nearly the same total, has really made gigantic strides.

As regards tea, there have been several reasons why there has been such an enormous decrease in our **Why the Tea Trade declined.** India and Ceylon come into the market, but the Chinese, in attempting to compete with their prices, have injured the reputation of their tea. As his tea gardens were not able to keep pace with our ever-increasing demands, the "heathen Chinese" started making

up the deficiency by recolouring old *used* tea leaves. It took a long time to knock this fact into our heads; but now, having once got that idea, it will take an equally long time to regain our confidence.

Doubtless the really first-class China tea is absolutely beyond comparison with any other. Every leaf is rolled by hand, and then withered over tiny charcoal fires. When such care as this is given, it is not difficult to understand that the result is superior to the product of European machine-rolled leaves, dried in quantities in a huge "sirocco" furnace. Unfortunately for England, the really fine Chinese teas never arrive here. The price we pay is not enough. The upper classes in Russia and China are ready to pay the proper price for a high-class tea. Consequently they get all that is placed on the market.

It may be asked how it is, if China has all the advantages in its favour that have been claimed, that the **China's Draw-backs.** country has not progressed far more than it has done hitherto. To answer this, we will now turn to the reverse side of the matter, so as to give, as far as possible, a faithful picture. Of the various causes



TEA PRODUCTION: CURLING THE LEAF.

In China the curling of the leaf is nearly all done by hand, and was one of the reasons why in former days the Chinese tea was so good. In their efforts, however, to keep pace with European demands, the guileful natives took to using inferior leaves, and even recolouring used leaves with mineral poisons. Hence Chinese tea got a bad name, so that England now scarcely purchases a tithe of her tea from China.

which contribute to keep back the progress of the country and diminish the extent of our trade with China, some may be ascribed to bad government, some to moral deficiencies in the Chinese character, and some to their superstitions and customs.

Of the faults that may be laid to bad government undoubtedly the most serious of all is the insecurity of the foreigner's life and property; which, in view of the recent events at Peking, it is not necessary to further demonstrate. Rebellions, as it has been pointed out, are for ever taking place in all parts of China; and, owing to the present system of having provincial armies with no central control, and a police force which is unpaid and must therefore live by the very law-breaking it is supposed to suppress, they are likely to go on breaking out in the future. No European, nor, for that matter, an Asiatic, can care about trade when he knows that he does it at the risk of his neck, or if he feels that his goods and all that he possesses may be any day destroyed by a sudden uprising of the populace. Even if this does not happen, a merchant never knows how much business may be deranged by such movements, so is unable to lay his plans accordingly.

Another of the merchant's difficulties, arising from bad government, is that no foreigner is allowed to reside for purposes of trade anywhere in China, except—**Foreigners not allowed to reside.** ing at the Treaty Ports. He is only allowed by treaty "to travel for purposes of trade"; which is obviously of very little use, if he cannot reside. Consequently, China is still, practically speaking, a closed book to Europeans.

Then, again, there has always been such an utter absence of good faith on "Likin" the part of China in observing her treaty obligations.

For instance, the original idea of the customs duties levied on goods at the Treaty Ports was that, as in most other countries, the one payment should free the goods for transmission to any part of China. But in the land of "squeeze" this idea did not commend itself at all to the governors of the various provinces. Each one felt that he ought to get something out of everything passing into or through his territory; hence the imposition of what are known as the "likin" dues. These "likin" charges are practically only levied on the Yangtse and Canton rivers, the two main trade arteries of China. At certain intervals barriers are placed, so that no goods can pass without having to pay the dues. Not only are they thus levied on the same articles several times over, but, as every merchant can testify, various delays and "squeezes" take place at each likin barrier. The amount even of the duty payable has to be bargained for, though there is supposed to be a fixed tariff. Consequently it often happens that on an article only going inland a few miles as much again or more than it originally cost has to be paid away in various likins and squeezes.

It is this cursed system of official squeezes—downright robbery would **Official Squeezes.** seem a fairer name—which is one of the greatest hindrances to our trade with China. The official's one idea is to bleed everything and everybody. For one thing, he could not live on his pay if he did not do so. You will find in China the head director of a great arsenal or mine receiving a paltry salary such as would

be elsewhere given to a mere clerk. It is quite understood that he will make up the rest for himself. For instance, the Chinese administrator of the large arsenal at Tientsin, which also includes a mint capable of turning out 30,000 dollars a day, only receives in salary 1,800 taels (about £250) a year. At home an official in charge of a place

their clothes." The very foundation-stone of commerce in Europe is credit; without mutual trust trade could not go on for a day. In China mutual trust is almost unknown. To the subjects of the "Son of Heaven" a lie is no disgrace; the utter disregard for truth which "the heathen Chinese" manifests is part of his nature, and he can never be brought to see that actually and really "honesty is the best policy." Consequently the difficulties of trade, where every *employé* has to have another over him to see that he does not thieve, a third to see the second is honest, and a fourth to keep an eye on the third, are sufficiently obvious. On the other hand, it must be admitted that some of the Chinese merchants and bankers are very trustworthy, comparing in this respect very favourably with the Japanese. In Japan it almost invariably happens that goods supplied are not equal to samples shown; but the Chinese



A COMMON SIGHT IN PEKING STREETS: PUNCH-AND-JUDY SHOW.

like that would receive not less than £3,000 a year.

Under circumstances of flagrant dishonesty by those in high places, is

Rampant it wonderful that their **Dishonesty**. example is copied on all sides? Mr. A. R. Colquhoun, an authority on the subject, says, "Mines do not pay the proprietors because the labourers pilfer the production; cotton factories, because the mill hands carry away the raw material stowed away in

have a much more favourable reputation for keeping up their standard of quality, and also for not backing out of contracts by which they are likely to lose.

Another of the moral causes which delay the progress of the Chinaman's country is his superstition. Perhaps just when he has a most important appointment poor Chin-Chin discovers that it is an unlucky day. The result is that he either does not turn up at

The Story of China

the white man, or gives some silly reason why he will not do business,

*How he-parallelism
hinders throw the matter up in dis-
Trade. gust. Perhaps a Chinaman*

and a European arrange a bargain which would be to the mutual advantage of both; but the vision of that spirit haunted land suddenly imagines he has had an occult warning, and refuses to conclude the negotiations.

Of the material difficulties which hinder the opening up of the country

Awful two stand out before all
Roads. others the badness of the roads, and the absence of railways. The roads in the "Flowery Land" are such as have to be seen, or rather jolted over in a Chinese springless cart, to be appreciated. "Good for ten years, and bad for ten thousand," is what the Chinese themselves say about them. They are made of rough boulders and blocks of stone laid loosely on the surface of the ground. When you go from Tungchow to Peking—the distance is only thirteen miles—it takes you at least six hours to do it in a cart; while the only thing that you can think of during the whole of that time is whether your head will not be jolted off your shoulders altogether. As to the holes in the roads, a depth of a yard is nothing. That this is no exaggeration, but only an exceedingly mild statement of truth, may be gathered from the fact that actually in Peking itself, and in front of the British Embassy too, a mule was last year drowned in a hole in the road. In consequence of the awful state of the means of communication, it can readily be imagined that traffic between many parts of China is practically suspended altogether. Coal, which in Shansi is

13 cents a ton at the pit's mouth, costs 4 taels (3s. 4d. thirty miles away, and over 7 taels (23s. 4d.) at sixty miles. How could the cost of transit be otherwise, when throughout that great empire, excepting where there is water communication, everything must be carried either on men's backs or by mules and ponies? Passengers have to be conveyed either in sedan-chairs or else on wheelbarrows, the two principal methods of road transit throughout the thousands of miles of inland China.

What an opening is here for railways! No place on the face of the earth

The Great presents such possibilities.
Opening Till recently the Chinese
for have resisted their introduc-
Railways. tion altogether. This has been partly through their natural hatred of anything new, partly because they come from the hated foreigner, and partly because they would deprive the carriers and boatmen of a living. Within the last few years, however, China's urgent need of money to keep herself afloat, and the pressure put upon her by foreign nations, have practically forced her into the granting of concessions for railways whether she wants them or not.

Of these railways the most important projected, and now under actual con-

The struction, is the line which
Peking- is to run from Peking to
Hankow Hankow, to be eventually
Railway. carried on right down to Canton. This would make a magnificent trunk line through the heart of China from north to south. Where at present it takes over three weeks of the fastest overland travelling available to cover the distance between Peking and Canton, passengers by rail would journey in comfort from one city to the

other within two days. The concession for this line, which is already being built, is in the hands of a Belgian-French syndicate, who have undoubtedly secured a concession which should prove a gold-mine.

Another great railway—at present only projected, however—is one from Peking and Tientsin, which would follow very nearly the course of the

quarter of a million to a million, it will be seen what an opening there is for such a line.

Of the railways now actually working in China there is only one of **Railways** any importance at all. This **already in** is the line from Tongku, at **Existence.** the entrance of the Pei-ho River, to Tientsin and Peking, with a branch from Tientsin through the



RAILWAY STATION AT TIENTSIN.

The starting-point from which the first attempts were made to reach the Peking Legations.

Grand Canal from Tientsin, pass *en route* through the rich coal and iron districts of the province of

The Peking-Hangchow Railway. Shantung, and connect with the Yangtse's great trade waterway at Chinkiang.

Thence it would continue south through the great cities of Suchau, Shanghai, Hangchow, and Ningpo. As every one of the cities here named, excepting Chinkiang, has a population of from a

Kaiping and Tongshan coal-fields to the sea at Shanhaikwan. From this latter point it is being carried on to meet the Russian line coming down to Port Arthur. Excepting for this one railway, which is only some 300 miles long, the only other line is a tiny length of seventeen miles from Woosung to Shanghai.

The difference that the introduction of railways will make to China is

almost incalculable. Those only who have lived in countries where the iron horse has not yet penetrated can testify to the fullest extent how that more than anything else in this world a train service makes and keeps up the very fabric of civilisation itself. Is it bad government that China suffers from, then railways, by putting rebellious isolated provinces within quick reach of the Imperial authorities at Peking, will nip the evil in the bud; is it insecurity to life and property, the fast-moving train can pour down troops wherever wanted; is it money to pay the nation's debts, the locomotive's shriek will be the harbinger of a new day in which trade, commerce, and resulting wealth will keep on doubling

themselves, as they have done in India; is it local famine, such as has hitherto killed off the yellow men in millions, the long goods trains, filled with the bumper harvests of adjoining districts, will remedy the evil; is it superstition, the constant coming and going of people from other provinces and other countries will gradually break it down. In short, the introduction of railways will introduce a new era in China, and may not unlikely cause the whole nation to rouse from its stupid pride in the past and show the stuff it is undoubtedly made of, just as the Japanese have done. If it has this effect, the result will be that the Chinese will take their natural place as one of the greatest peoples on earth.



OUTSIDE TIENTSIN STATION.

The scene of the attack on July 4th. The Chinese in great force advanced under cover of the fire of eleven of their guns. The British replied with two of the *Terrible's* 12-pounders from Ladysmith. Ultimately the Japanese infantry drove the Chinese from their strong position amongst the grave-mounds to be seen in the distance.

CHAPTER XI.

The Events that led to the Great Outbreak.

How the Chinese really feel towards Europeans—Origin of the "Boxer" Society—First Boxer Outrage—Punishment of the Murderers—How Punishment can be evaded—Any Victim will do—A Doubtful Decree—Boxer Conduct grows Worse—Objects of the Boxer Society—Chinese Secret Societies—Their Stringent Rules—Rites of Initiation—Demand to denounce the Boxers—Disturbances spreading—Publication of Decree requested—The Demand conceded—The Beginning of the End—Ships ordered to Taku—Situation becomes Extremely Grave—Guards demanded for Legations—Effect of their Presence in Peking—From Bad to Worse—Government Sympathy with Boxers—A Boxer Placard—Our Preparations to meet the Trouble—Another Doubtful Decree—Result of Imperial Encouragement—Communication with Peking cut off.

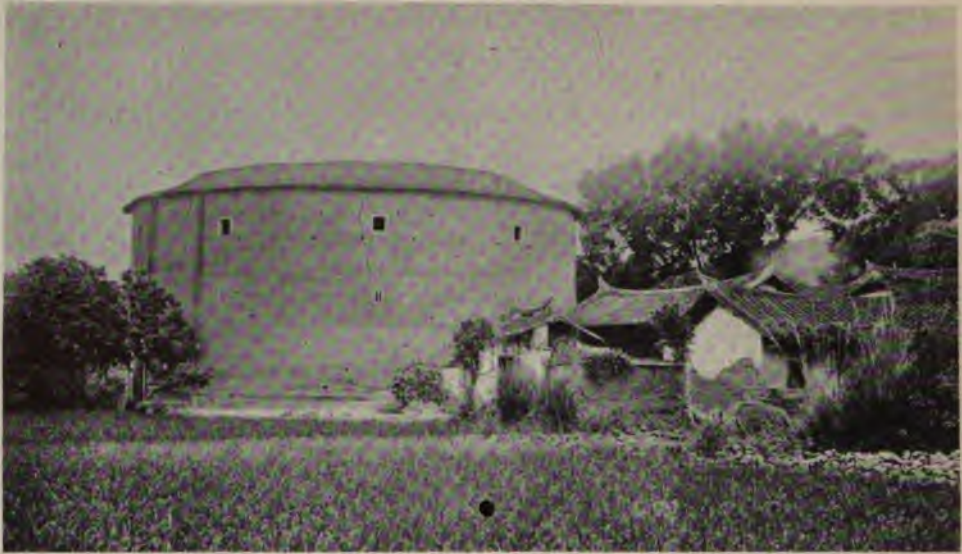
*"How long, O God, shall men be ridden down,
And trampled under by the last and least
Of men?"*

TENNYSON.

UNDER the circumstances of her treatment by Europe—every nation trying to get hold of a piece of her empire—it is not very wonderful that China for a long time past has had misgivings as to whether the white men are quite so honourable and disinterested as they profess to be on all occasions. "Why don't they let me alone?" says poor old China. "I don't want these white men—in fact, not to put too fine a point upon it, I detest every kind and sort of them. Their inventions and so-called civilisation I hate. What use are they? These men with their new-fangled ideas are no more happy with them than I am. As to their religions, each one brings a different kind and warns me against all the others, or I shall incur certain damnation." That, expressed differently perhaps, is what China feels about foreigners from one side of her huge self to the other. It may be—nay, more, it is pretty certain—that her last attempt to murder all the envoys of all the nations, and make China a "sealed book," was the

outcome of a feeling that unless she essayed one last desperate effort she would be torn to pieces, and her individuality as a nation would cease for ever.

This feeling has unquestionably been the root of the so-called **Origin of the "Boxer" Society.** whose doings we have now to consider. The seizure of Kiaochau by Germany in punishment for the murder of two of her missionaries, followed as a counterbalancing movement by the acquisition of Port Arthur by Russia, Weihai-wei by England, and Kwangchau by France, caused this secret society to have its origin. These seizures gave rise to a general belief amongst the Chinese that the source of all their troubles with Foreign Powers lay with the missionaries and their converts. Therefore they felt that they must be got rid of at all costs. By preaching the upholding of the dynasty along with this propaganda, and further ascribing to themselves a sort of semi-divinity, the "Boxers" secured the support of the Imperial Court



A VILLAGE FORT ON THE WAY TO PEKING.

Not calculated to stand many shots from our 4'7 guns.

while arousing the sympathies of the populace.

We have now to trace how, from the apparent quiet of the early part of this

First year, the hidden feelings of **Boxer** hatred we have indicated **Outrage.** found expression; how the flame of unrest fanned by the Boxers has grown bigger and bigger, fiercer and fiercer, till it has gathered all Northern China into the conflagration. Practically the first intimation which the British public had of the doings of the Boxers was the news telegraphed by our Minister at Peking on January 4th, 1900. He reported that an English missionary named Brooks, belonging to the Church of England Mission, had been murdered near the town of Feicheng, in the province of Shantung, where he was travelling. On making enquiries, it came to light that the affair was the work of a secret society known as "The Boxers," who, it appeared, had been for a considerable

space of time defying the authorities and pillaging the people in parts of Shantung and Chihli, the native Christians especially being sufferers from their lawless attacks.

At that time it would appear that the Chinese Government discountenanced the Boxers, for an Imperial **Punishment of** Decree was at once issued **the** expressing regret for the **Murderers.** outrage and ordering every effort to be made to capture the murderers. As a result of this, five men were eventually taken prisoners. They were found guilty, after a four days' trial, held in the presence of two of our missionaries and our local Consul, Mr. Campbell. Two were sentenced to death, and the others to varying terms of imprisonment. Beside this the following sums were paid to us: 7,500 taels (£1,250) to build a memorial chapel, 1,500 taels (£250) more for a memorial to be placed in the college at Canterbury, to which the deceased missionary belonged, and

a further 500 taels for the erection of a tablet on the scene of the murder ; also the district magistrate of Feicheng was dismissed. But Yü Hsien, who, as Governor of the province, was responsible, according to Chinese custom, for its law and order, was in no way punished. By the law of China, next to the actual murderers, he ought to have received the heaviest sentence of all.

But in that land of corruption it is not difficult to evade any punishment if one has only

enough money. In the rare cases where judges cannot be bribed, it is allowable and usual to offer cash to someone to suffer a sentence for you. It is actually possible in China,

by making a sufficiently large payment, to get a substitute even when the sentence is death. The substitute thinks that the money will provide him with a really satisfactory funeral, and

enable his descendants to worship his departed spirit in such a way as to ensure its happiness. For this reason, obtaining satisfaction from Chinese authorities for outrages committed is but a poor business at the best of times.

If a murder takes place in China, and you go to the



Photo by Russell & Sons, Baker Street, W.

SIR CHIHCHEN LO FENG-LUH, K.C.V.O., THE CHINESE MINISTER IN ENGLAND.

authorities demanding as vengeance the lives of the murderers, Any the sort of reply you will get is: "Certainly; how many would you like? There are several men you can have at once."

How Punishments can be evaded.

Any Victim will do.

"But," you gasp, "are you sure that they are the ones who committed this murder?" "Oh no!" is the reply, "I don't suppose they are; but if they did not do it, they might have done, so you had better take what you can get." Quite probably the real murderer is all the while known to the official thus calmly suggesting the sacrifice of innocent men, but for some reason best known to himself he tries to draw a red herring across the trail. It is always excessively difficult to fathom the depths of the Asiatic mind and to understand what is really contained therein.

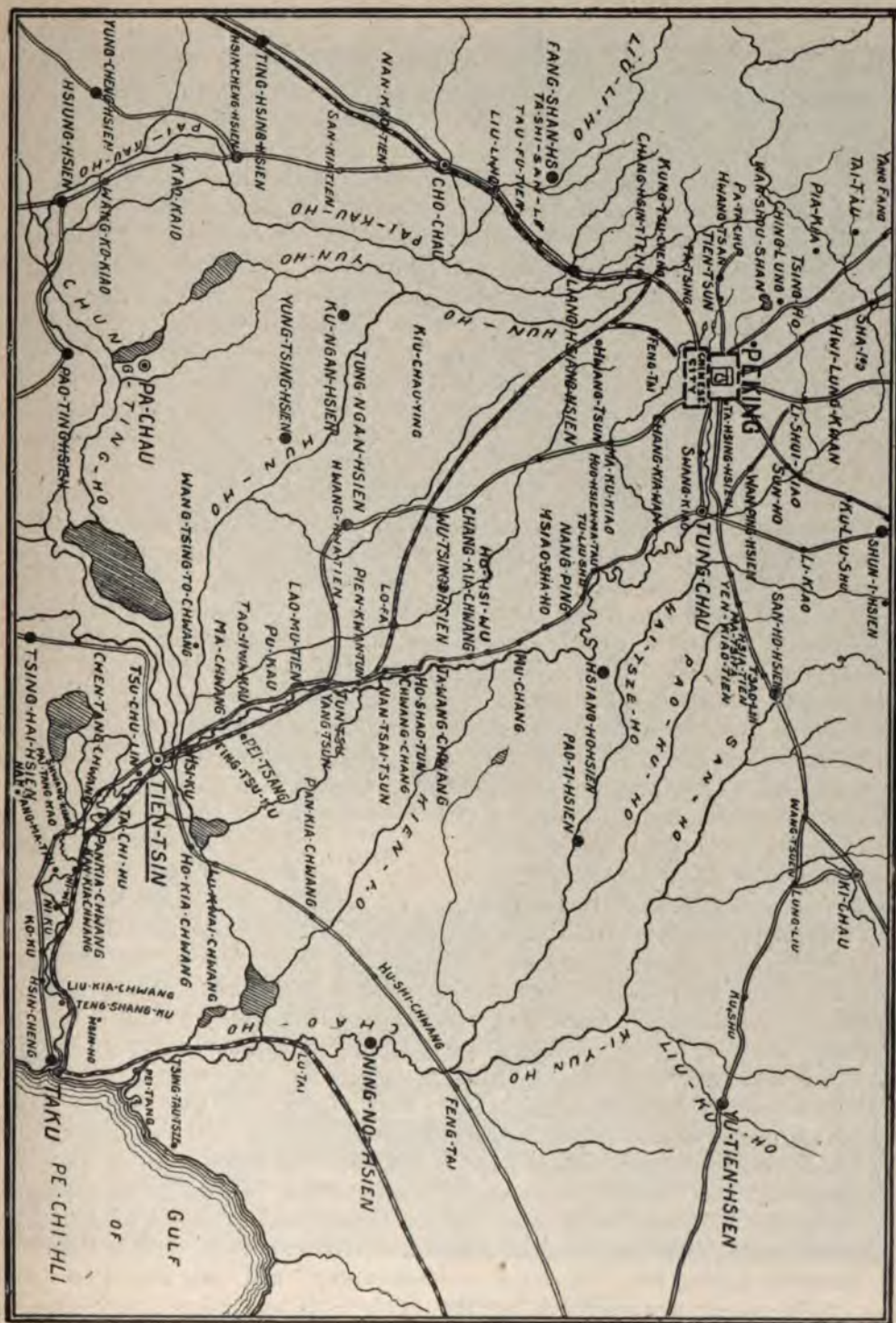
Thus within a week of the severely worded Imperial Decree on the subject of the murder of Mr.

A Doubtful Decree. Brooks, a second Decree was issued which seemed to modify the first one, if it did not contain a direct incentive to the Boxers and other secret fraternities to go on with their foul doings. A few of the opening lines of this Decree are here given, so that readers may judge for themselves what was intended by it. If not an encouragement to the secret societies, it is rather hard to see what meaning, if any, is intended to be conveyed by its long-winded, canting phraseology: "Of late, in all the provinces, brigandage has become daily more prevalent, and missionary cases have recurred with frequency. Most critics point to seditious societies as the cause, and ask for a rigorous suppression and punishment of these. But reflection shows that societies are of different kinds. When worthless vagabonds form themselves into bands and confederacies, and, relying on their numbers, create disturbances, the law can show absolutely no leniency to them. On the other hand, when peace-

ful and law-abiding people practise their skill in mechanical arts," etc. The Decree is too long to give *in extenso*, but its opening is a fair sample of, and serves as a keynote to, the rest.

The two societies against which complaints were made by our Minister at Peking were the I-ho-Ch'üan (whom we call "The Boxers," but whose name **grows Worse.** literally translated means "Fist of Righteous Harmony") and the Ta-Tao-Hui, or "Big Sword Society." After the publication of the doubtful Imperial Decree, it is certain that the conduct of these two societies grew worse and worse. They now went about openly pillaging the homes of Christian converts, destroying their chapels and ill-treating and robbing women and children. Their aims and objects they no longer concealed, for the banners they carried bore the words, "Exterminate the foreigners." That they should have dared to thus show their hands so plainly is fairly good evidence that the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and "Big Sword" societies were even then secretly supported by those in high places.

The idea supposed to be underlying such an extraordinary name as "Fist of Righteous Harmony" is that the members will harmonise together to push the cause of right, if necessary by the use of force. Such a name for a society may mean anything or nothing in China. Chinese secret societies generally adopt names of this kind in order to mislead as to their real objects. Very **Chinese Secret Societies.** often they choose a name which has no meaning whatsoever.



FROM TIENTSIN TO PEKING.

If you enquire as to the objects of such a society, you find that the aim which it *publicly* announces is "uniting heaven and earth," or some other equally high-sounding cant catchword. If your queries become more pointed, these are the sort of answers you would get: "Exterminate the Christians? Oh dear no; our society exists for something far different. Upset the Manchu Dynasty, did you suggest? Nothing of the kind! We are united together for 'spreading the worship of the Queen of Heaven, the mother and nurse of all things.'" No, in the matter of secret societies the Chinaman has nothing to learn from your modern Anarchist or Nihilist—in fact, the latter will come to appear rather an amateur than otherwise at the business. China is and always has been honeycombed by these clandestine associations. Of late years especially their numbers have increased to such a degree that nearly everyone seems to belong to a society of some sort or other; though it must not be imagined that all, or nearly all, have bad objects.

Those of a dangerous political nature possess laws and rules which in many

Their Stringent Rules. cases have never been fully revealed. Certain it is that a member who has been

guilty of treachery seldom escapes with his life. Treachery, however, is not very common. The members are chosen with every care, and are initiated by the most awe-inspiring, blood-curdling rites which can be devised. The following account, from Mr. D. C. Boulger's "Short History of China," is so realistic a picture of the nature of one of these ceremonies that I take the liberty of quoting:—

"The night was selected as the appropriate time for so grave an under-

taking, and the members assembled from far and near to take part in an

Rites of Initiation. office which enhanced their individual importance, while it added to their collective strength. When thirty-six oaths had been sworn to advance the cause and to stand by the order to the last extremity, and when a present of money had been made to show that the candidate placed his worldly goods at the service of the common fund, the most important part of the ceremony was next performed. This was called 'crossing the bridge.' The candidate stood underneath two drawn swords held over his head by two members, while the elder brother heard him affirm his undeviating fidelity to the cause; and when this was finished, the new member cut off the head of a cock, with the exclamation, 'Thus may I perish if the secret I divulge!'"

Whatever was meant by the new Imperial Decree, the Boxers, as we have seen, took it as a direct

Demand to denounce the Boxers. encouragement to themselves. Consequently the various European Ministers at Peking, on January 27th

last, drew up an Identical Note asking that a fresh Decree should be issued specifically denouncing by name the societies who were working the mischief. To this they got no answer for nearly a month, and then only a shuffling reply from the Tsung-li Yamen. A fresh Identical Note was thereupon sent in on February 27th, requesting that an Imperial Decree should be published in the *Peking Gazette* giving the names and ordering the complete suppression and abolition of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and "Big Sword" societies. This Note was worded very strongly. The result of it was that a Proclamation



from a drawing by Tom Brown.

"THE DOUBLE-FACED DOWAGER."

A humorous artist's conception of the Empress.

was issued by the Governor-General of Chihli embodying an Imperial Decree which denounced the Boxers by name in very strong terms. This would have been considered quite satisfactory by the Ministers if the Chinese Government had not shown so much tardiness over the matter and had not for so long tried to make out that there was not the slightest cause for alarm. Especially did the Ministers object to the Yamen's refusal that the new Decree should be published in the *Peking Gazette*. They felt that as the previous doubtful Decree had appeared in its columns it was in the highest degree necessary that this new Decree should have the same publicity. They accepted, however, the Yamen's explanation that the reason why the "Big Sword Society" had not been named was that it was now amalgamated with the Boxers.

Disturbances, however, were all the time spreading. While people were reading in the Governor-General's proclamation the beautiful copy-book morals of the Imperial Decree, such as "Evil customs must be rooted out, and the people encouraged to be good," with its grandiose finish in Adelphi drama style, "Let all tremblingly obey!" recruits were being enlisted by the Boxers and drilling was proceeding in the environs of Peking.

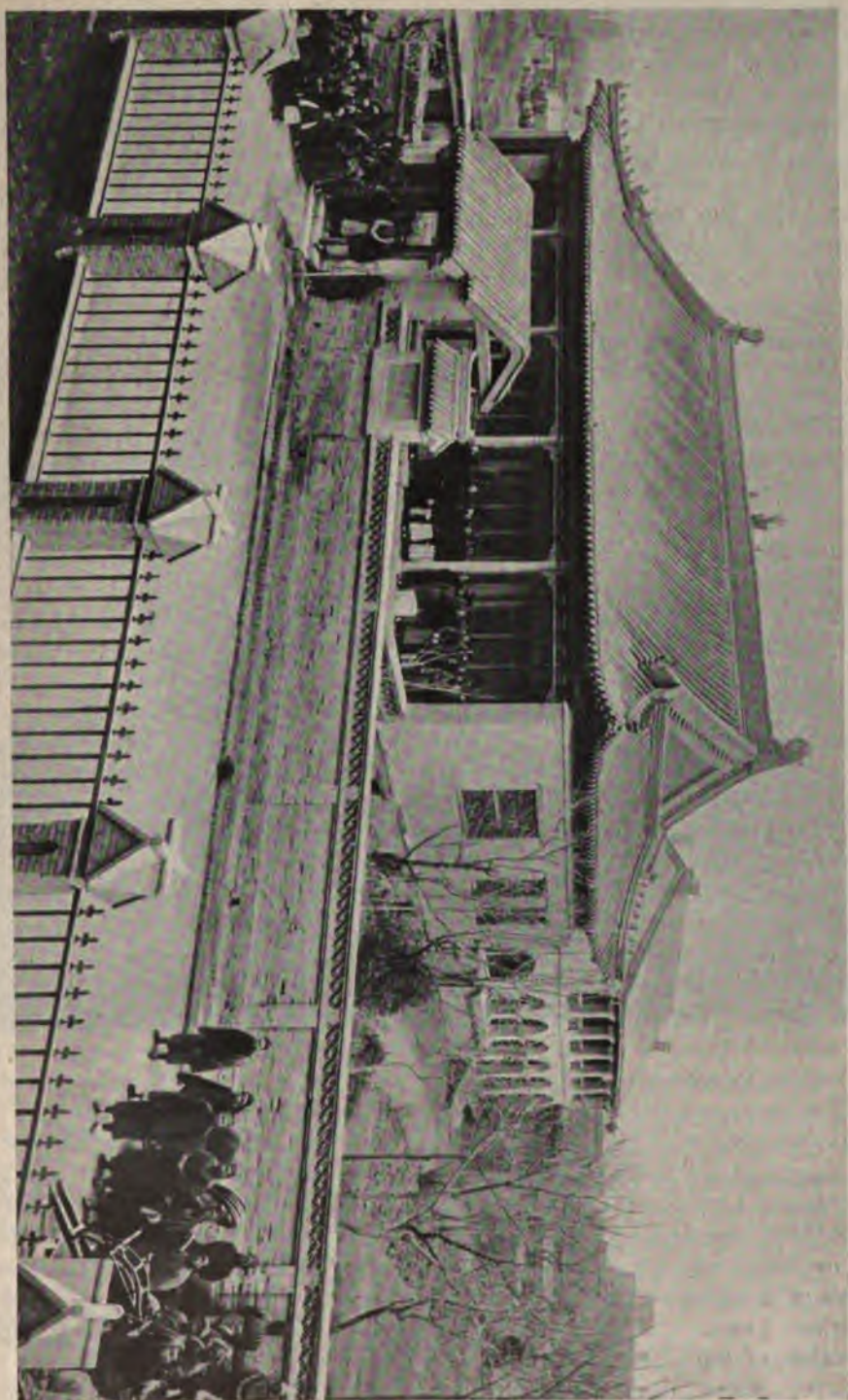
The Ministers therefore reiterated their demands for the publication of the Decree in the *Peking Gazette*. The Tsung-li Yamen refused to do this, as being contrary to custom. They wrote a letter on March 7th, trying to make out that its issue in the form of a Proclamation was really a great deal better. One of the remarks contained therein

is worth quoting: "In future the rascals who have been molesting Christians cannot fail to dread the majesty of the law and to turn from their courses." While these beautiful sentiments were being issued, Yü Hsien, lately Governor of Shantung, was promoted to be Governor of Shansi. This man, it will be remembered, was the officer under whose jurisdiction the murder of Mr. Brooks had taken place, yet this was how he was encouraged.

The wide discrepancy between the words and the deeds of the Chinese

The Government was becoming Demand every day more apparent. conceded. So our Minister, Sir Claude MacDonald, wrote another letter to the Tsung-li Yamen on March 10th, insisting on an absolute prohibitive Decree being published in the *Peking Gazette* without further quibbling. It finished up with the following plain words: "Should I not receive a favourable answer without delay, I shall report the matter to my Government, and urge strongly the advisability of the adoption of other measures for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects in China." Even then, however, it was not till two of our vessels, the *Hermione* and *Brisk*, had been sent to Taku to make, with the ships of other Powers, a combined demonstration, that Sir Claude was able to cable to Lord Salisbury (April 10th, 1900) that the Decree had been published and the ships might therefore return from Taku.

The Boxer movement had, however, taken a deeper and more serious hold on Northern China than even Sir Claude MacDonald and the other resident Ministers suspected. On May 17th came the distressing news that the Boxers had destroyed three villages



MISSIONARY HOSPITAL AT TIEN-TSIN,
Where some of the wounded were tended during the bombardment by the Chinese troops.

and killed over sixty Roman Catholic converts at a place about ninety miles south of Peking, near Pao-ting-fu. Over 2,000 native Christians were forced to fly for their lives, and were left without food, clothes, or shelter. Next day came the further news that the London Mission chapel at Kungtsun, forty miles south-west of Peking, had been destroyed and the Chinese preacher killed. From this date things appear to have rapidly gone from

**The
Beginning
of the
End.**

bad to worse. The French Minister appears to have been the first to have realised the portent of the little cloud which was so soon to burst in Northern China. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Peking, Mgr. Favier, who had lived there for thirty years in daily conversation with all classes of Chinese, wrote to him, pointing out that all the conditions were exactly similar to those which prevailed just before the Tientsin massacres of thirty years ago: the same placards, threats, and notices, and, alas! the same want of foresight on our part. In a consultation with the other Ministers, M. Pichon accordingly urged that, if the Chinese Government did not show that they really meant to act properly in putting down this alarming movement, guards should at once be brought up by the various Ministers to protect their Legations.

The serious way things were shaping was conveyed in a long telegram from

**Ships
ordered
to Taku.**

Sir Claude MacDonald to Lord Salisbury, who at once wired back: "If you consider it necessary for the protection of the lives of Europeans, you may send for marine guard." The *Algerine* and *Orlando*, of the China Squadron, were at the same time dispatched to Taku, so as to have the necessary

men available. This occurred on May 27th. By the 29th some of the stations on the railway between Peking and Taku had been burnt and the line torn up by the Boxers. It was rapidly becoming clear what was about to happen, as, notwithstanding all the piously worded proclamations and high-sounding protestations against the wickedness of the Boxers, the Chinese troops were not making the slightest effort to interfere with them.

With rail communication already stopped, if the guards were not landed at once it was evident that they would never be able to get through to Peking at all. The situation had be-

**Situation
becomes
Extremely
Grave.**

come one of the most extreme gravity. The people were very excited, and those Chinese soldiers who might have been led against them were mutinous. At the same time permission was refused by the Yamen for foreign soldiers to come to Peking. This, however, was more than the Ministers could stand. A deputation, consisting of the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States, declared

**Guards
demanded
for the
Legations.**

that they must immediately bring up guards, in view of the seriousness of the situation and the untrustworthiness of the Chinese troops. To this the Tsung-li Yamen gave one of their typical replies, *viz.* that they could not answer definitely until the next afternoon, as the Prince was at the Summer Palace. The Summer Palace, be it noted, is only an hour's ride from the Tsung-li Yamen. The Ministers therefore wisely refused to admit such an obvious put-off. They repeated their warning as to the serious consequences which would result if permission were not at once given, so that their

protectors could arrive by next day. By showing a determined front the point was carried, and, on May 31st, British, Italian, Russian, French, and Japanese detachments arrived in Peking to protect their various Legations, our force consisting of seventy-five men, with three officers and a machine gun. At the same time a further portion of the

once produce a good effect, the treatment of foreigners by the Chinese improving immediately.

Outside Peking, however, things were rapidly going from bad to worse.

From A party of Belgian refugees, including six ladies and a child, while escaping down the river from Pao-ting-fu to Tientsin, **Bad to Worse.**



CHINESE BURIAL-GROUND, SHANGHAI.

Chinese Squadron, consisting of four ships under Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, was dispatched to Taku.

The guards, 340 men in all, got through into Peking without difficulty.

Effect of their Presence in Peking. Indeed, every facility was given to them by the Chinese Government. The gates were kept open, and the streets were orderly. The presence of these foreign troops seemed to at

were attacked about twenty miles from the latter place by 700 Boxers. Four of the party, including one lady, were killed, but the remainder were brought into Tientsin. Two days after news came of the murder of Mr. Robinson and Mr. Norman, two members of the Church of England Mission.

Things had now got to such a pitch that remonstrances with the Tsung-li



THE BREACH MADE IN THE GREAT FORT IN 1860.

This was the view presented after the troops got in

This remarkable photograph was taken after the storming of the Peiho Forts by ourselves and the French forty years ago. In many ways this photograph is as true to-day as it was in 1860, showing so forcibly what the scene is like in the inside.



A CHINESE GOSPEL BOAT WITH MISSIONARIES.

Boats such as this one are in ordinary times used as "Gospel boats." In these the missionaries live when travelling over China's wonderful system of inland canals, which enables almost every town of any importance to be visited. During the recent disturbances they were found useful by the missionaries as means of escape.

Yamen were useless. When our Minister interviewed them on the subject of these murders, they displayed the greatest indifference. At a subsequent interview Prince Ching, the head of the Yamen, actually

admitted that his Government was reluctant to deal harshly with the Boxer movement, as, owing to its anti-foreign character, it was popular. He said that soldiers were being sent, but doubted whether they would be allowed to fire on the Boxers. He further gave them to understand that as the Empress-Dowager was in their favour, they (the Yamen) were powerless to remedy the matter. In fact, when the Imperial Decrees which had been issued to suppress the Boxers were torn down

in Peking and Boxers' placards inciting the populace to murder the foreigners were put in their places, no notice was taken by the Government officials. Here are some choice extracts from one of these Boxer placards:—

"In a certain street in Peking some worshippers of the I-ho-Ch'üan **A Boxer Placard.** (Boxers) at midnight suddenly saw a spirit descend in their midst . . . then a terrible voice was heard saying, 'I am none other than the great Yü Ti (god of the unseen world) come down in person. Well knowing that ye are all of devout mind, I have just now descended to make known to you that these are times of trouble in the world, and that it is impossible to set aside the decrees of fate. Disturbances are to be dreaded

**Government
Sympathy
with
Boxers.**



MR. E. H. CONGER,
American Minister to China.

from the foreign devils; everywhere they are starting missions, erecting telegraphs, and building railways; they do not believe in the sacred doctrine, and they speak evil of the gods. For this reason I have given forth my decree that I shall descend to earth at the head of all the saints and spirits, and that wherever the I-ho-Ch'üan are gathered together, there shall the gods be in the midst of them. The will of Heaven is that the telegraph-wires be first cut, then the railways torn up, and then shall the foreign devils be decapitated. The time for rain to fall is yet afar off, and all on account of devils.—4th Moon, the

1st Day" (April 29th, 1900).

As the Chinese Government either could not or would not do anything to put down the rising, it was clear that the foreigners must take the law into their own hands. Telegraphic instructions were therefore sent to our Admiral, Sir E. H. Seymour, and to Sir Claude MacDonald, giving them directions to act entirely on their own discretion and take whatever measures they thought expedient. Orders were also issued that all the troops that could possibly be spared

should be sent to Taku from Hong Kong, Wei-hai-wei, and Singapore.



MRS. CONGER.

What hastened the determination of our Government to be ready for all eventualities was the publication of another Imperial Decree. This, instead of condemning the Boxers, rather praised them than otherwise; their actions being put down to the result of misconduct by Christian converts, while their murders of missionaries were not even mentioned.

The result of this Decree was that the Boxers now commenced openly

Europeans may be gathered from the fact that a secret Edict was issued forbidding the soldiers to fire on the Boxers.

Lastly, on June 5th, both the train and telegraph service to Peking were cut; while the Chinese troops who were supposed to see to their preservation were now acting under Tung-fuhsiang, the very general whose soldiers had for so long been a standing menace to the safety of all foreigners. On



THE AMERICAN LEGATION AT PEKING.

drilling in Peking itself. It was manifest that the sympathies of the Imperial Court were on their side. Instead of Boxers being made to suffer, it was the peasantry who had resisted their outrages who felt the hand of the law. Not a single Boxer was arrested. Meanwhile, a station on the railway from Tientsin to Peking had been burned, and over forty miles of the new line from Peking to Hankow completely destroyed. How little hope of averting a calamity was left to

June 6th the *Times* correspondent tried to go by rail from Tientsin to Peking. The train had on board General Nieh and sixty of his Chinese troops. They found all the villages *en route* in flames, and inscriptions, "Kill all foreigners," everywhere posted up. At the end of thirty-one miles the brave general said it was highly dangerous to go any farther. He gave them to understand that it was useless to fight the Boxers, as they were invulnerable—indeed, he and his troops had seen a Boxer who had been hit by bullets rise and run away!

CHAPTER XII.

The Peril of the Legations and the Attempts to relieve them.

Beginning of a State of War—Admiral Seymour's Relief Expedition—Peril and Suspense—Boxer Outbreak in Peking—Ultimatum to the Taku Forts—Their Capture—Tientsin surrounded—A Dark Hour—Anxiety for Admiral Seymour's Force—Story of his Expedition—"What is happening at Peking?"—Murder of the German Minister—"Situation Desperate. Hasten!"—More Rumours—Relief Impossible!—The News of July 6th—Hope revives—No Word from the Ministers themselves—The World's Greatest Fiction—A Circumstantial Story—Other Graphic Details—How the Story was received—A Message from the Dead—The Truth too Strange for Belief.

*"Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads;
We went through fire and through water."*

PSALM LXVI. 12.

WE have now arrived at the time when a state of war may be said to have been begun by the action of the Allied Powers in landing troops in China without permission, as a consequence of the Chinese Government and its soldiery having thrown off the mask by openly siding with the Boxers they were supposed to suppress. On June 10th the news came that the American Mission buildings at Tungchau had been looted and burned by the soldiers who ought to have protected them. The missionaries had fortunately fled in time, but seventy-five of their native Christian converts had been massacred, many being burnt alive. In Peking itself the racecourse buildings and the club were also destroyed by Imperial troops; while further evidence that what was taking place was instigated by the Government was afforded by the dismissal of Prince Ching from the Tsung-li Yamen, where he was the only friend of the foreigners, and the filling of his place by Prince Tuan, the recognised head of the Boxer movement.

Under these circumstances, the following epoch-making wire was sent by our Minister at Peking to Admiral Seymour at Taku: "Situation extremely

grave. Unless arrangements are made for immediate advance to Peking, it

Admiral will be too late." There-
Seymour's upon the Admiral landed at
Relief once with all available men.
Expedition.

Within two days a force had been got together of 2,044 men, of whom 915 were British, and the remainder furnished by the other Powers. They left Tientsin on June 10th, fully believing that by the next evening they would all be in Peking. However, by that time they had only got half-way, having had to repair the line and fight a battle with the Boxers. It was not a bad start, however, as thirty-five of them were killed without casualties to our own side. But next day, instead of being in Peking or anywhere near it, the force had only progressed three miles. Advance by train would evidently be virtually impossible henceforward, as the line was torn up in all directions.

It soon became apparent that, in place of succouring the Ministers in Peking, there was grave
Peril and danger that the relief force
Suspense. would itself have to be re-
lieved; that, instead of advancing, they would probably have great difficulty in even getting back to Tientsin. In front

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of Seymour's little band was General Tungfuhsiang with 10,000 Chinese troops, while in his rear hung large bodies of Boxers. To make matters worse, the wires were cut, so the greatest suspense prevailed as to the fate of the gallant Admiral and his brave men. From June 13th to the 30th the world was left in absolute ignorance of what had happened to them. As no one knew what was taking place, the wildest rumours got afloat. Some were to the effect that he had reached Peking and rescued the Ministers; others that he was surrounded and fighting desperately, and that food and ammunition were giving out. Still other and more terrible rumours stated that his whole force had been overpowered and massacred to the last man.

While the world was thus uncertain as to his fate, stirring events were taking place elsewhere. On June 14th a most serious Boxer outbreak took

place in Peking. Native Christians and servants of foreigners were massacred in hundreds; the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the London Mission, and many other missionary buildings were burnt; while a report was circulated that the Empress-Dowager had resolved to destroy the Legations. Already the Secretary of the Japanese Embassy had been murdered. The extreme gravity of the situation in Peking was now apparent to all.

Meanwhile, it was discovered that the Chinese Government were moving troops to surround Tientsin, and to man the Taku Forts at the mouth of the Pei-ho River, on which Tientsin is situated. As this course was evidently designed to cut off Admiral Seymour's base, and prevent reinforcements reaching him, the naval commanders of the allied fleets delivered (June 16th) an ultimatum at

Boxer Outbreak in Peking.

Ultimatum to the Taku Forts.



THE STARTING-POINT OF THE ALLIES.

The station at Tongku, at the mouth of the Pei-ho River. Tongku is on the north side of the mouth of the Pei-ho. The Taku Forts are on the south side.



Photo by Maull & Fox, Piccadilly, W.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR E. H. SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Commander of the First Relief Expedition.

forts had been blown up, and all the others carried in an assault by a mixed force of about 1,200 men, who landed to attack them in the rear. On the side of the Allies, her Majesty's sloop *Algerine* was damaged, two Russian gunboats were seriously injured, and there were casualties amounting to 100 in all. On the other hand, the Chinese loss was at least 100 in killed alone, the dead bodies lying about the forts in all directions, where they had fallen by bullet or bayonet. In addition four Chinese torpedo-boat destroyers were

the Taku Forts. This stated that unless the troops were at once disbanded the united squadron would commence bombarding the forts by 2 a.m. next day.

It is still fresh in everyone's memory how, when next day came, they were

Capture of the Taku Forts. saved the trouble; for, at 1 a.m. on Sunday, June 17th, the Taku Forts themselves opened fire with all their guns on the combined fleet. If they thought to dismay the Allies they were quickly undeceived. By 6.30 a.m. two of the

captured, and one of their second-class cruisers, flying the Admiral's flag, was detained.

This brilliant success, it was at first hoped, would produce a striking effect

Tientsin in disillusioning the Chinese **sur-** as to the futility of hoping **rounded.** to contend against allied

Europe. But at the same time the news came to damp our exultations that Tientsin, the base from which Admiral Seymour started and to which he would have to return if he could not get through to Peking, was now



WEI-HAI-WEI.

Wei-hai-wei is the British naval station in North China, acquired by us in 1898. As a naval base near to the scene of operations, it will be of the greatest use in the present crisis. As will be noted from the map, Wei-hai-wei belonging to England, and Port Arthur belonging to Russia, are on opposite sides of the entrance to the Gulf of Pechihli, which is about eighty miles wide at this point.

surrounded by the pigtailed troops; also the dread rumour was already being circulated—alas! in this instance, only too true—that the German Minister at Peking had been murdered. As there had been no communication with Peking since June 14th, and it was now the 22nd, the public began to feel very anxious as to the safety of the other Ministers and missionaries resident in that hot-bed of rebellion.

From rumours, too, it had already become certain that Tientsin itself was

A Dark Hour. suffering under a most determined bombardment from Chinese troops armed with modern field-guns. On June 22nd a message from the British Consul at Tientsin arrived: "Reinforcements are most urgently needed. The Chinese keep up an incessant fire from large guns on the Concession." Things were indeed in a bad way. With the allied force of 3,000 men (which had gone up to Tientsin before its investment) heavily bombarded and discussing the question of retirement, and with the darkness of black night hanging over the fate of both the Europeans at Peking and Admiral Seymour's force, the gloom was next day increased by the news that the attempt to relieve Tientsin on the 22nd had been repulsed with some loss. On June 23rd, however, a relief force succeeded in fighting its way in, and this they fortunately succeeded in doing with comparatively trifling casualties.

Still, however, there was the question of succouring Admiral Seymour's **Anxiety for** gallant little band of 2,000 **Admiral** men. When the news came **Seymour's** that 62 of his troops had **Force.** been killed and 200 wounded, that he was short of provisions and

ammunition, and so hampered with his sick and wounded that he could not move either backwards or forwards, the greatest anxiety was felt on every side. On June 28th the following cable was received at the Admiralty from our Consul at Tientsin: "Commander-in-Chief north of Tientsin, short of provisions, urgently in need of reinforcements. Combined force of 2,000 men gone to his relief; an engagement going on now." Soon after this, however, came the welcome news that Admiral Seymour had got back into Tientsin.

When his story came to be unfolded, it appeared that he had had as much

Story of the Expedition. fighting as any man could reasonably wish. On June 14th, the day after his communications were cut, he fought two separate battles with the Boxers, of whom he killed about 100 on each occasion. As he was short of provisions, and the railway was so torn up that quick advance by it was hopeless, he decided to return to Yangtsun. Meanwhile, the force he left in his rear had fought another battle, in which, though they lost six killed and forty-eight wounded, they had the satisfaction of leaving 400 or 500 of the enemy dead on the field. With so many wounded on Admiral Seymour's hands, there was now nothing for it but to retreat towards Tientsin. On the 23rd, notwithstanding his tiny force, he actually attacked and captured the Imperial Armoury above Tientsin. While the enemy were kept in check by rifle fire in front, a party of marines and seamen under Major Johnstone turned the position. The Armoury was then occupied by Seymour's forces, who found immense stores of cannon, Maxims, and rifles, all of the latest



Photo by Hayes & Co., Detroit, Mich.

BARON VON KETTELER, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS MURDERED IN THE STREET AT PEKING ON JUNE 20TH.

patterns. Lastly, on June 26th, the relieving force having arrived, he burnt the place and re-entered Tientsin.

While these events were happening, however, the public kept asking themselves, "But what about **What is Happening at Peking?** Are the Legations safe?" For from the time of the attack on the Taku Forts on June 19th telegraphic communication between Peking and the European forces had been entirely interrupted. A terrible silence had fallen, which the rumours that came through served to intensify, not to relieve. What was happening behind

the veil? What, indeed? That was the question which overshadowed every other.

As far back as June 16th it had been rumoured that the German Minister at Peking had been murdered, and that an attack had been made on all the Legations. As subsequent events proved, the murder did not take place until two days after it was rumoured, so it is clear that the whole thing was no sudden outbreak of the populace, but the result of a carefully prepared plan. The official news concerning the murder of Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, only reached Europe on July 3rd. It appeared that he had been attacked in the streets of

Peking by regular troops of the Chinese army, who dragged him from his horse and beat him to death as he was riding to the Tsung-li Yamen.

Along with this news comes a message from Sir Robert Hart, which has been sent off on Sunday afternoon, June 24th:

"The Situation is Desperate. Hasten!" The foreign colony is besieged in the Legations; the situation is desperate. Hasten!

"The situation is desperate. Hasten!" Merciful Heavens! The news is already a week old! What has happened meanwhile, or what will happen before relief arrives? For it begins to

be evident that the getting a further relief force into Peking is not going to be a very quick matter.

Rumours showing the urgent necessity of the case kept on pouring in

More from all sides. The **American Rumours.** can Consul at Shanghai wired on June 27th that only two Legation buildings were left standing. Other messages from Shanghai reported that when eye-witnesses left a week before the Europeans were in the most pitiful extremity, the women perishing of starvation where they had not been killed outright. On the British Legation, it was said, a terrible fire was being maintained, and it was feared that, even if food and ammunition had not been failing, it was hopeless for a handful of white men to keep the thousands of Chinese at bay.

Each day after this seemed to darken in

Relief Im- horror.
possible! The news

of July 5th prepared everyone for the worst. If the Legations had not already fallen, it appeared plain that their end could be only a question of time. For Tientsin, which we thought relieved, was now re-invested. Instead of going forward to relieve Peking, it was feared that the Allies would actually have

to evacuate Tientsin and retreat to the coast. The mere suggestion was received with horror in England. It was felt that we were abandoning all the brave men and women who represented Europe in China to their fate—a fate so dark as to be too awful to contemplate. That the allied forces of all civilised Europe had been forced to the conclusion that it was hopeless to attempt an advance at present, and that therefore our flesh and blood in Peking



SIR ROBERT HART, BART., G.C.M.G.,
Director of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

must be abandoned to the remorseless cruelties and outrages of the Chinese without one single effort to save them, seemed too humiliating and dreadful.

While there is life there is hope, however ; and hope had prayed against **The News** hope that perhaps after all of the Legations would hold **July 6th.** out till help should arrive, or some party in the Chinese Government might intervene on their behalf. But the news which was published in the papers of July 6th seemed to be final and conclusive. Three

Chinamen who had been in the service of Europeans in Peking, from which place they had just

e s c a p e d ,
brought the harrowing intelligence

that the British Legation, after holding out until ammunition and food were exhausted, was burnt down, and that of the 1,000 foreigners in Peking not one had escaped. Even the women and children had been put to death. They further stated that Prince Tuan had taken the reins of government into his own hands ; that he was acting like a madman, and had forced the Emperor to commit suicide by taking opium ; that the Empress had also been made to take a strong dose, but that it had only rendered her insane. Peking was said to be a perfect inferno, its streets fairly running in blood. Of native converts alone over 5,000 were said to have been killed.



LADY HART.

When hope was thus at zero—nay rather, extinguished in most breasts—

Hope there came the soul-gladden-
revives. ing news that two of the Legations were still standing, of which one was the British, and that Prince Ching, with his troops, was protecting them against Prince Tuan's army. But then what, if anything, could be believed of all this mass of rumour, which was for ever pouring over the wires? Still, whatever rumour might

say, and whatever Imperial Edicts and Chinese officials might asseverate as to the safety of the Europeans, there was one cold, hard fact

which began to make itself felt, the thought of which struck daily a deeper chill at the heart of the nation.

No Word from the **It was**
Ministers this. Here **them-**
selves. was nearly the

middle of July, and *not one single word from the Ministers themselves* had been received since Sir Robert

Hart's message of June 24th, "Situation desperate. Hasten!"

At last, on July 13th, came news so definite and so circumstantial as to

The every detail that it was felt
World's to go on hoping would be
Greatest only folly. Knowing, as one
Fiction. does now, that the whole

grim story was a sheer invention, one can scarcely refrain from smiling at the airy web of fiction that was woven round what then seemed to be the world's



Photo by J. Thomson, Grosvenor Street, W.

LADY MACDONALD,
Wife of the British Minister to China, one of the besieged in Peking.

greatest tragedy. There can be no doubt that the man who got up the story which was published in the papers of July 16th could have been no ordinary liar—even for a Chinaman. Perhaps, however, he was a very high official indeed.

The account of the final end of the Legations was as follows: The British **A Circum-** and the Russian, the only **stantial** two Legations left un- **Story.** captured, were attacked in force on the evening of July 6th. Prince Tuan was in command, and led the centre with Kang-Yu as his assistant; the right wing was led by Prince Tsai-yin, and the left by Prince Yin-lin. The attack commenced with the artillery, and, after severe fighting, by seven o'clock the next morning all was over. All the Legations were destroyed, and the streets round them choked with the dead bodies of the contending forces. Prince Ching was killed, and Prince Tuan, to celebrate his glorious victory, distributed 100,000 taels and quantities of rice to his Boxers. Could any story be more circumstantial or worthy of credence, especially when coupled with the fact that not a word had arrived from the Ministers themselves for three weeks? The affair will go down to history as the greatest but most horrible hoax ever perpetrated.

But at the time the news was received none of the lighter side was visible—

"Other only the grim tragedy. How **Graphic** could anyone longer doubt **Details."** that a massacre had taken place? What were called by the evening newspapers "other graphic details" were furnished next day. Those who had invented them were evidently determined that the public should have full money's worth for their halfpennies, as nothing in the way of gore was

spared to make the lurid picture complete. In view of the fact that, when Peking was relieved, almost all the Diplomatic Corps, with their wives and families, were found alive and unhurt, the gentlemen in immaculate tennis flannels, and the ladies in bewitching summer frocks, it is curious to read a description like the following:—

"By this time the walls of the Legation had been battered down, and most of the buildings were in ruins from the Chinese artillery fire. Towards sunrise it was evident that the ammunition of the Allies was running out, and at seven o'clock it was clear that it was completely exhausted. A rush was determined upon. Then standing together, as the sun rose fully the little remaining band, all Europeans, met death stubbornly. There was a desperate hand-to-hand encounter. 'The foreigners,' said the Chinese courier, 'went mad, and killed all their women and children, shooting them with their revolvers instead of firing on the Boxers.' When the heavy guns were loaded they were all fired simultaneously, and the foreigners were swept away like grass that is being cut. The Boxers were like madmen and demons, and when there were no more to kill they fell upon the bodies in the courtyard and mutilated them."

To say that the news was received with horror throughout the whole **How the** civilised world is stating the **Story was** case mildly. What con- **received.** tributed to make it absolutely certain that the massacre had taken place was the fact of its being confirmed by various Chinese officials, while others contented themselves with hinting that they dreaded the worst. Scarcely anyone doubted now that all was over. In the House of Commons Mr. Brodrick

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slowly read out the latest telegrams, and added: "We can hardly dare to hope that in substance the reports of the massacre are inaccurate." His statement was received in an awful dead silence more impressive than words, many Members instinctively taking off their hats. It was arranged that a solemn requiem service should be held on the following Monday in St. Paul's Cathedral to pay the last sad homage to the dead fallen in a massacre which even put Cawnpore in the shade. The newspapers came out with full obituary notices of the martyred heroes of the Peking Legations, and photographers who had taken any of them found their portraits in extraordinary demand.

And then that wonderful quick-change artist, the Chinese Dragon, came out with a fresh surprise. On July 20th, exactly a fortnight from the day that all the Ministers had been massacred, one of these dead men—to wit, Mr. Conger, the representative of the United States—sent a telegram to his Government, which, being in his own cypher, was therefore undoubtedly genuine. "In British Legation," it read, "under continued shot and shell from Chinese troops. Quick relief only can prevent a general massacre."

Did we believe in the message? Oh dear no! We were so absolutely

convinced of Chinese duplicity that the newspapers came out with ingenious articles to prove that the message looked too genuine to be real. The wire was called "the latest Chinese ruse," and was generally believed to have been an old telegram they had intercepted and now planted on the world.

When this was followed by an Imperial Decree, cabled to the Chinese Legation in London, stating

The Truth too Strange for Belief. that the Ministers had been under the protection of the Imperial Court, and that all were safe, it was taken by us as further proof of Chinese fraud. "They have evidently their own ends to gain by circulating these lies," was said by everybody. "They probably believe that if the whole truth is allowed to come out in a lump it would so thoroughly unite the Powers of Europe they would sweep the Manchu Government off the face of the earth, and raze Peking to the ground; whereas, by letting time and doubts do their work, international jealousies would very likely prevent any vengeance being taken at all." This was what the man in the street affirmed in his wisdom, but at the same time he condescendingly agreed to the suggestion that it would be perhaps better to postpone the memorial service at St. Paul's. Fortunately this service never came off.



CHAPTER XIII.

How the Legations were relieved.

Catching a Tartar—Tientsin reinvested—Dastardly Tactics — "Ladysmith to Tientsin, Immediate"—Allies' Lack of Unity—German Emperor's Splendid Offer—Attack on Native City repulsed—Its Capture—China begins War with Russia—China tries for Intervention—"Imperial Edict cannot lie"—An Undoubted Message at Last—The Advance to Peking begun—Battle of Peitsang—Capture of Yangtsun—The Uses of Lyddite—The Enemy's Last Stand—In Peking at Last—Legations' Terrible Experiences—Flight of the Empress-Dowager—Questions for the Future.

*After sorrow's night forlorn,
Brightly breaks a joyful morn.
For our soldiers' duty done,
For our triumph nobly won,
Lift your hearts with one accord,
Lift your hearts, and praise the Lord!"*

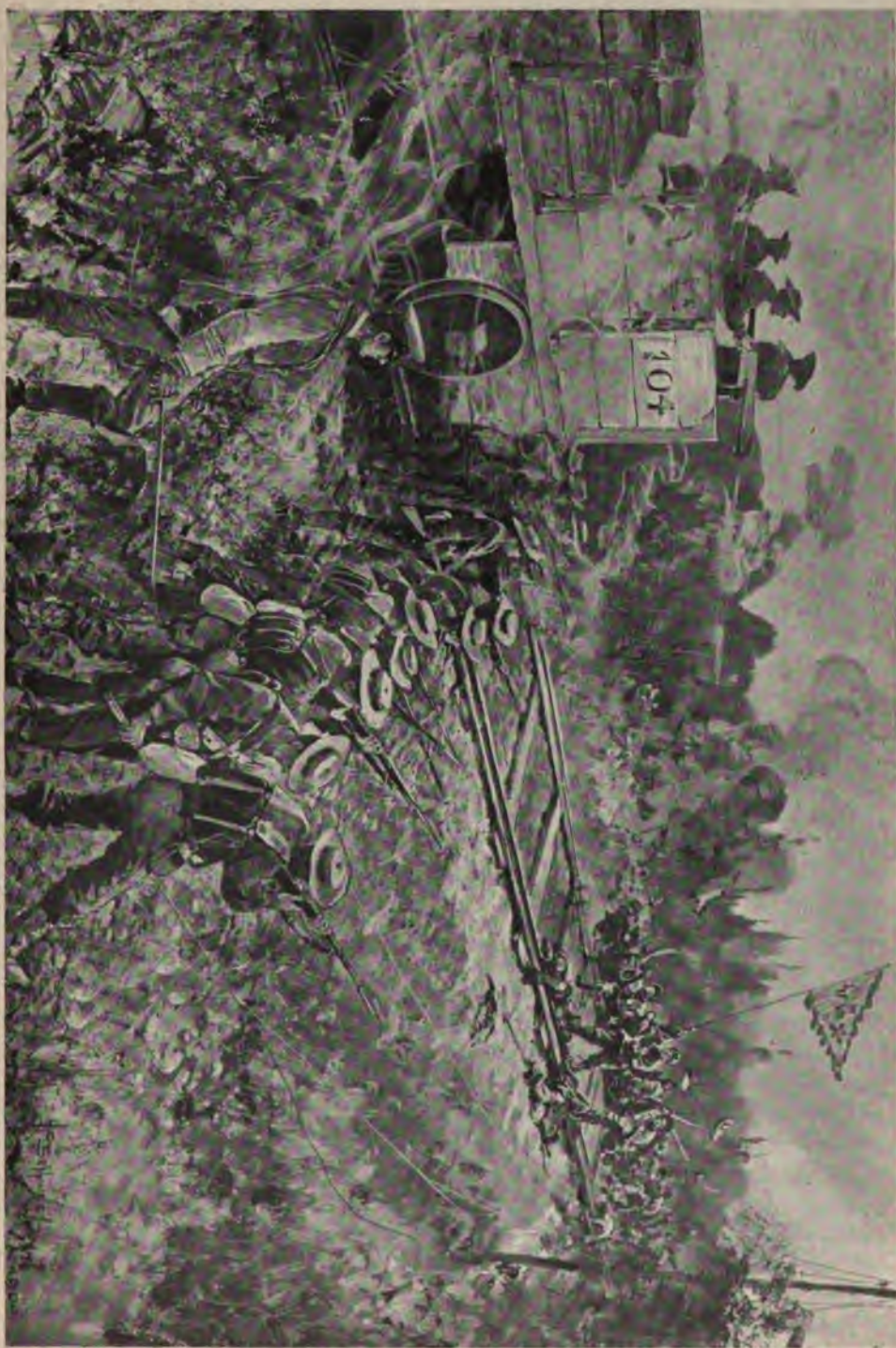
A. C. AINGER.

To properly tell the story of the relief of the Legations, it is necessary to go "Catching back for a moment to the a Tartar." time, June 23rd, when the Allies succeeded in forcing their way into Tientsin to relieve the garrison of 3,000 men who were there besieged. The "Relief of Tientsin," as it was called, was somewhat of a misnomer, and rather suggested the story as to the origin of the phrase "Catching a Tartar." In a war we had with the Tartars an Irishman, who had one night wandered from his comrades, called out: "Oi say, O'ive caught a Tartar!" "Well done! Bring him along," was shouted back through the darkness. "Yes, but he won't come!" "Well, then, come along yourself," called his comrades. "So Oi wud," was the Irishman's reply; "but he won't let me!"

The Allies found themselves in a similar position when they got into Tientsin, because, be it noted, it was only the European Concession which they had entered. The native city, the real

Tientsin, with its million inhabitants, was still in the hands of the enemy. They soon caused the world to know that our troubles at that place were not ended. On July 5th we were disquieted to learn that Tientsin was again invested by such enormous bodies of Chinese that, though the relief force and subsequent arrivals had increased the garrison from 3,000 to nearly 10,000 men, they were only just sufficient to keep back the enemy from making a rush. The position was considered most unsafe. As to an advance to Peking, it was not to be thought of. Indeed, the only question was as to whether or not it would be possible to continue holding the Concession against the yellow horde of 80,000 men investing it.

The Chinese kept on pouring in a most surprisingly well-directed and Dastardly deadly fire, from artillery Tactics. which quite outclassed that at command of the Allies, while sniping continued day and night. Then, too, there was the serious question of the water supply. The dastardly foe had



FIGHTING ON THE RAILWAY.

The Story of China

poisoned all the wells, so as to force the Allies to drink the water of the river, which from Tientsin to Taku was full of Chinese dead bodies, that every tide washed up. There were thousands of dead Chinamen round the city, who were now almost a greater danger than when they were alive.

Desperate fighting occurred almost daily at Tientsin. On July 4th and 6th

"Lady-smith to Tientsin. Immediate."

the determined attacks of the foe were repulsed with great difficulty. Fortunately two more of the 12-pounders of H.M.S. *Terrible* arrived.

They bore the inscription: "Lady-smith to Tientsin. Immediate." The "handy-man" with his guns was just as welcome and indispensable here as he had proved himself at Ladysmith.

Just as in the Boer War, the enemy were found to be in possession of

Splendid Guns but bad Generalship.

the most modern artillery, and their marksmanship and way of handling their guns was a revelation. Had their generalship been only equalled by the fighting powers they displayed in their attack on the Tientsin railway station on the 4th, it would have gone hard with the Allies. As the Chinese force was made to advance across an open plain devoid of cover, the shells of the *Terrible's* guns repulsed them with murderous effect. A second attack was made on the same place on July 11th. The station garrison then consisted of 300 men only, of whom one-third were British. They gave, however, a splendid account of themselves. The foe were repulsed with a loss of 500 in killed, but our casualties were comparatively trifling.

Notwithstanding these successes, our position for some time grew rather

worse than better. The Chinese became bolder and more numerous,

Allies' Lack of Unity. while the bombardment they maintained from the native city was most galling.

On the Allies' side muddle seemed to be the order of the day. All were willing to work harmoniously together, but, alas! there was no unity of action. A proper Commander-in-Chief was wanted who could enforce the carrying out of his plans; whereas time was lost, and favourable opportunities slipped by, while plans were being discussed by the leaders of the different nations engaged.

Under such circumstances the chances of deliverance of one single

German Emperor's Splendid Offer. soul from Peking seemed to ever grow smaller. When, on July 7th, the German Emperor made his splendid

offer to give to the rescuers of every foreigner, no matter of what nationality, 1,000 taels (about £166), the likelihood of any being saved seemed so slight that it was felt the Imperial purse would not suffer to any great extent. Who could have dreamed that over 800 persons would be saved, and that his offer was to cost him in consequence over £100,000?

If the Allies could have been clear of Tientsin, the rainy season was now

Attack on Native City repulsed. said to be commencing, and it was further reported that the Chinese had flooded the whole country right up to

Peking by means of the Grand Canal. But before even the question of an advance could be considered, Tientsin's native city must be captured at all costs. A desperate attack was therefore made by the Allies on July 13th, but after a terrific day's fighting they



CHINESE TARTAR SOLDIERY DESTROYING VILLAGES ROUND TIENSIN.

were repulsed with heavy loss. The attempt which they had hoped would be such a surprise to the Chinese was a surprise indeed—for the Allies. For as our troops, to the number of 8,000, approached, they found the walls manned by thousands of trained soldiers, who had been warned by spies of their coming. A terrible rifle fire, together with shot and shell from all kinds of modern guns, of whose presence no one had even dreamed, poured on the advancing Allies. The marksmanship and military qualities displayed by the Chinese on that occasion

were, as the special correspondent of the *Daily Mail* described them, "a positive revelation."

The next news after this, however, was just as gladdening as this was the reverse. Though they had fought from two o'clock in the morning to eight at

night on the 13th, the Allies resumed the attack early next morning. Ex-

Its plosives were laid at one of **Capture.** the gates, but at the critical moment they failed to go off. It remained for a Japanese soldier to write his name in fame's roll of martyrs. He

rushed forward and applied a lighted torch to the explosives, which, in blowing him to atoms, threw open the way for his comrades to enter. It was a crowning act: the whole force streamed through the breach and the city was taken.

Then the Chinese, who up to this point had unflinchingly

stood a withering hail of bullets and lyddite shells, and had even on occasion charged our Sikhs with fixed bayonets, fled in all directions. No less than sixty-two guns were captured, the native city was almost entirely destroyed, and loot taken to the value of a million and a



Photo by Rossano, Old Bend Street, W.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR ALFRED GASELEE, K.C.B.,
Who commanded the troops from India.



THE BRITISH LEGATION, PEKING.

The British Legation, the scene of the greatest outrage ever attempted, is a delightful old Chinese palace, standing in its own grounds of about five acres. Formerly the man who was chosen to occupy it was the envy of the Diplomatic world. No one then dreamed that the strong, high walls which secluded its garden-parties from the prying Chinese would have to stand a two months' bombardment, or that its gorgeously decorated reception-rooms would be the refuge of wounded men.

half taels of silver. The British lost twenty killed and eighty-three wounded, out of a total casualty list of 775. But the Chinese losses were frightful. The scene inside the walls was too awful to contemplate. In places the dead were piled breast high. How decisive was the victory was eloquently proved by the fact that almost immediately thereafter the whole neighbourhood of Tientsin was evacuated by the Chinese troops.

Meanwhile, however, the Celestials had sprung a fresh surprise on the world. Not content with fighting the Allies in the Tientsin-Peking district, they must needs start a separate war with Russia. They suddenly seized a Russian transport on the Amur River,

and followed that up by bombarding Blagoveschenk, a Siberian town on the north side of the Amur. Its garrison held out bravely, but was overpowered at last, when nearly the whole town was burned. On July 21st, however, the Russian General Gribski succeeded in retaliating. After eight hours of the hardest fighting he recaptured the place, taking eight guns and 200 prisoners. His loss in doing so, however, was frightful; no less than 870 of his men falling in the attempt.

The result of the splendid capture of the native city at Tientsin was quickly shown in a variety of ways. Though it was still generally believed that the Europeans in Peking had been all massacred, the Chinese Government had the assurance

**China
begins a
War with
Russia.**

**China tries
for Inter-
vention.**

to apply to first one Power and then another to intervene on their behalf. To the credit of the various Powers, one and all returned answers to the effect that no question or talk even of peace could take place until the flags of the Allies flew over Peking. Then the Chinese Legation in London on July 23rd issued a copy of an Imperial Edict, dated from Peking July 18th, to the effect that the Ministers were all well on that day. When, in answer to a query by a Central News representative, one of the secretaries at the Chinese Legation in London said, "It is Imperial Edict; Imperial Edict cannot lie," the whole of England smiled, and thought it was only another piece of Chinese bluff.

It was not until July 31st that news which the nation felt they could accept

An asundoubtedly genuine came **Undoubted** to hand. Telegrams were **Message** then received from both the **at Last.** British and German Legations in Peking, which showed that the Legations were at any rate standing a fortnight after the supposed massacre. Sir Claude MacDonald's celebrated message, which was dated July 21st, told how from June 20th to July 16th they had been attacked by Chinese troops on all sides. Since that date, however, there had been an armistice, though they were surrounded by an impassable cordon.

This joyful news seemed to quicken the energies of the Allies into life.

The Though it had been pre- **Advance** viously so freely announced **to Peking** that no advance on Peking **begun.** would be possible until September, the next cable (published August 1st) contained the delightful news that the British, Americans, and Japanese had not only started, but

were already well on their way to Peking. It was even said that the Allies hoped to be there within eight days. The Chinese were reported to be falling back upon the capital in great numbers, however, so an immense opposing army would have to be faced. Had we troops enough to ensure success? Then, again, if the Allies forced their way through all opposition, what would they find in Peking? Would it turn out that the Chinese, in their desperate desire for revenge, had made one last great attempt and succeeded in storming the now practically defenceless Legations and massacring every living soul?

The first important battle which the advancing Allies were called on to fight

Battle of took place at Peitsang, **Peitsang.** eight miles from Tientsin.

An enormous body of the enemy had strongly entrenched themselves on both banks of the Pei-ho. In this river for some time past they had been sinking junks filled with stones, so as to render it useless as a waterway for the transport of the Allies. Against this entrenched position, on Sunday morning, August 5th, the whole relief force moved out. After tremendous fighting, in which the Japanese displayed the most splendid gallantry, the Chinese were driven from their entrenchments on the near side of the river. This they then precipitately crossed, blowing up the bridge behind them. Nothing daunted, the brave little Japs, however, plunged into the river under a heavy cross fire; the Chinese, completely demoralised, fled without even making an effort to hold the entrenchments they had constructed on that side. Thus ended a seven hours' battle of the greatest severity. In this affair no less than 1,200 of the Allies, in-

cluding sixty British, were killed and wounded. Considering the swampy nature of the ground on which it was fought, it was a brilliant achievement. The whole country from Tientsin to Peking is little better than a mud-flat at any time, but on this occasion the Chinese broke down the banks of the Pei-ho, so as to flood the country which the advancing force would have to cross.

Difficult though it was for cavalry and **Capture of artillery Yangtsun.** lery to move in such

a place, from henceforth it seemed as if nothing could withstand the onward sweep of the avengers. By next day Yangtsun had been occupied; here the foe occupied a splendid position of great natural strength, fortified by seven lines of entrenchments about 200 yards apart. This time it was the turn of the British and Americans to bear the honours of the day. From one line of entrenchments to another the Chinese were driven back, and by the time



FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT WALDERSEE,
Commander-in-chief of the International Forces.

the last line was captured the yellow army was a disorderly mob flying towards Peking. The Chinese Government realised that the game was up, and Li Hung Chang was forthwith ordered to sue for peace on any terms. For once he found that his talk was of no avail. He was informed all round that the Allies were going to Peking, and that there would be plenty of time after they got there to discuss other matters.

By August 10th the force was half

way to its goal, the Chinese fleeing from the positions they had prepared.

The after making scarcely any **Enemy's** opposition. Just as they **Last Stand** did in 1860, the yellow men then tried to make a last stand at Chang-chia-wan, about twenty miles from Peking. But demoralisation had now thoroughly set in. The victorious invaders captured this place also, 500 dead Chinamen being left on the field.

The way to Peking was now open, and on August 20th came the official **In Peking** news that the city had **at last** been captured, and that all the Ministers and their staffs were found to be safe. For all of one day, August 14th, the mighty walls of China's capital had withstood the bombardment of the relieving force, but by night the Japanese had succeeded in blowing up two of the gates on the eastern side of the Tartar City, directly opposite Legation Street, while at the same time the British and Americans had forced their way into the Chinese City. They all dashed for the Legations, the first to arrive being the troops under our own good old Union Jack.

During the last few days of their siege, which had been redoubled as **Legations**, the Allies advanced, the un- **Terrible** fortunate inmates of the **Experi-** Legations had been forced to **ences.** subsist mainly on horseflesh. The behaviour of the Tsung-li Yamen was of the most dastardly kind. Even the very day before the relief force arrived they tried to throw the Legations off their guard by sending them word that they had given strict orders for firing to cease, and then commencing a terrific simultaneous attack on all of them at once. This attack continued right on to the time of

the relief. During their long siege of two months the Legations had lost sixty-five killed and 160 wounded. A sad total; but the lives had been sold dearly. The villains who had thus dastardly attacked them admitted that 3,000 on their side had been killed by the gallant defenders.

One question of interest still remained. What had become of the **Flight of** Empress-Dowager and the **the** Imperial Court? That wily **Empress-** old lady, who has always **Dowager.** known how to take care of herself, had fled, and the Emperor and his Court with her. The public, however, recognise that whether captured or not the power for evil of the Empress-Dowager and her confederates is gone.

Now that the Legations have been relieved the mission of the Allies **Questions** is practically accomplished. **for the** So in this last year of **Future.** the nineteenth century there closes one of the most exciting and interesting episodes which have ever occurred in the history of the world. There is still the reckoning to be considered. What is to become of China? Are we at the close of this nineteenth century to witness the unprecedented spectacle of the tearing to pieces of China by the Powers of Europe, screaming and fighting like vultures over their prey? Or will the Asiatic "sick man" be bolstered up again like his Western brother, and continue to just barely exist by playing off the jealousies of one country against another? Or is it possible that the demonstration she has received of the futility of the old ways may be as the entering in of the breath of life—the life of the Western world's progress, the life which has so rejuvenated, and re-created, China's neighbour, Japan?



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